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*History Of*  
*Letcher County, Kentucky*

STATE LIBRARY  
OF  
KENTUCKY  
JAN 10 1911

{ *Its Political and Economic Growth* }  
*and Development* }



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INTERIOR



# Foreword

## YOUR PEOPLE AND MINE

They came at first, — your people and mine, with long rifles tucked in the bend of their arms, striding across high hills, pushing down into the quiet valleys, probing, exploring and winding their way through the wilderness, seeking a land of opportunity. Many chose to settle in the area high up in Kentucky territory that was to become Letcher County, a community filled with folklore and romance.

A sturdy race they were, these men and women who carved the first homes out of this wilderness of hill and valley. The hard swinging of an axe, the full throated voice of a good wife singing about her tasks, the shrill scream of a circling hen-hawk, the melancholy call of an owl, and the twilight echo of the whippoorwill, — and then the quietness of the cool gray dawn, — this was their world. This was the land upon which they laid strong hands and carved out the foundation for the vast industrial empire that is today Letcher County.

To this sturdy folk we owe any immense debt of gratitude; and it is the purpose of this history to preserve the memory of those earlier days and to record for posterity the undeniable fact subsequent generations have built well upon the firm foundation laid by these hardy forebearers.

This history of Letcher County is profusely illustrated and in it one will find scenes and word pictures that exist today in the memory of a handful of the older citizens; and by way of contrast to show the development, will be found pictures of yesterday and others as modern as tomorrow's headlines. By this means it is hoped that the rapid strides of progress will be portrayed graphically and the potentialities foreshadowed.

The text of the history proper is devoted to the early history of Kentucky, and particularly Eastern Kentucky, and the growth and development of Letcher County, economically, politically and with due regard to those individuals and families who have played important roles in this constant development. It is brief and touches upon the outstanding facts that should be a common knowledge to Letcher County residents.

In order to reflect the flavor of Letcher County and its sturdy people, certain old customs and legends are revived. Many of these are related in the individual business histories that support the major historical thesis and constitute as much a part of the real history as the factual material.

All the facts related in this book have been checked carefully for authenticity from the best available records and sources of information; and the compiler of the history recorded herein takes this opportunity to thank those whose efforts have made this work possible.

History of Letcher County  
By

I. A. Bowles,  
Hazard, Kentucky

Assisted by Bascom Sturgill and Zelda Hale in writing the advertising stories that appear herein.

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THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

IN SENATE  
January 11, 1951  
REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE  
TO THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
AND  
TO THE SENATE

# REVENUE FROM THE PUBLIC LANDS

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1950

WASHINGTON  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
1950

OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

AND

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

AND

TO THE SENATE

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

AND

TO THE SENATE

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR



## LETCHER COUNTY

### First Settlements

The first settlements made in Letcher county that became permanent were made about 1804. However, white people a few years previous to this, mostly hunters and adventurers, found their way into the headwaters of the North fork and Poor fork sections of the country. They finally returned to North Carolina or Virginia. The news of their adventures, the wild woods, the fine mountain streams, game of all sorts and freedom from the Indians, spread and the urge to go west was kindled in the minds of many. Numbers got everything together and the company started traveling; there was little to direct them, but they knew they were going west, probably never to return to their native haunts, and most of them never did. The first group of significance to cross Pine Mountain and land in what is now Letcher County was led by John Adams. With him came a large family of children, young men, and young women and about ten others, mostly young men who had joined the colony. They came into the wild woods high upon the shimmering waters of the North Fork and settled. John Adams built his home on a little ridge leading to the old burying ground at the mouth of Bottom Fork. Here he lived until his death in 1815. He was the first white man buried in this grave hill and the grave is easily pointed out to this day. Most of the younger men who came with this early family married into it and thus became connected with it. Among those who came in this colony were Jas. Collins, Ephriam Hammons, Holbrook and others. These families were joined soon by others from North Carolina and the mother state of Virginia and thus the first families and the seeds of a later civilization took root in this wild and promising western country.

### County Named

Letcher County was named after Robt. P. Letcher, Governor of Ky. at the time the county was formed in 1842. Gov. Letcher was born in Garrard County, the son of a brick maker and while growing up worked around the brick yard and learned the ways and language of other workers. All efforts to educate him had proved futile. He was forced out of school. He got the idea that if he could get in school under Joshua Fry, he could learn something. He went to Mr. Fry and told him that his teachers had been unable to handle him but thought that he could handle him. Mr. Fry told him he thought he could handle him and took him in. From that day on Governor Letcher ever spoke of Mr. Fry as one of the best and noblest men living. Many other noble men were students of Mr. Fry, including Justice Geo. Robertson, Judge John Green, Rev. Lewis W. Green, D. D., Hon. Wm. J. Graves, Col. Wm. R. McKee, Judge Geo. R. McKee, Gen. Cassius M. Clay, Hon. Joshua F. Bell, Col. John Speed Smith, Chief Justice Thos. A. Marshall, Judge Samuel S. Nicholas and Dr. Chas. W. Short. Mr. Fry Died at Danville about 1839.

Robt. P. Letcher commenced housekeeping in the same house in which Congressman Robertson began housekeeping and after two years, succeeded George Robertson in Congress 1823-33. Other noted Kentuckians, Chief Justice George Robertson, Judge John Boyle, Samuel McKee, and Robert Letcher, all of whom went to the Congress of the U. S., began housekeeping in this small two room house near Lancaster.

Gov. Letcher was an excellent violinist, and so was Henry Clay and many other of the notable politicians. Not a little of their great personality and popularity was due to the fact that they were skillful players of the fiddle, and seldom refused the call of the assembled crowd, on any occasion when they were candidates, for any designated popular tune. He was elected Rep. from Garrard Co. 1813-'14-'15-'36-'37-'38 and served his district in Congress for ten years.

"Though man a thinking being is defined,  
Few use the grand prerogative of mind.  
How few think justly of the thinking few,  
How many never think, who think they do."

—J. Taylor



Photo by Cooner, Hazard, Ky.

Many Such Beautiful Winter Scenes in Letcher County

### PREHISTORIC RACE

Based upon an article written by Thos. E. Pickett, M.D., in Sept. 1871 (Vol. I Collin's History of Ky. p. 380) it appears quiet evident that the Indians exterminated a pre-historic race of white men long prior to the time Kentucky was known as Fincastle County, Va.; that within the memory of living men (1871), "it is perhaps allowable to say that offshots of three distinct primordial races—the Red, the White, the Black—have multiplied and flourished in the heart of the Mississippi Valley." The Red man gave it the name of Kentuck-e, meaning the Dark and Bloody ground. To the Black race, for many years, it meant involuntary servitude, but in more recent years, a land of many opportunities; to the White man a land rich in political history, in agriculture, live stock raising, manufacturing, commerce and mining of coal and production of oil and gas.

"Patient and critical investigation has found numerous traces, in the western valleys, of a remarkable race of men, peculiar in their ethnic affinities, compact and powerful in their social organizations, sagacious and enterprising in war, skilled in the industrial and domestic arts, devoted to the rites of a symbolical cult, and familiar with those principles and forms of political administration which give stability to the conditions and institutions of a state. \*\* Our materials for this consideration are derived chiefly from three sources—native traditions, hieroglyphics records, and antique remains."

The traditional lore of the Indian reflects the same, when interpreted in connection with "The testimony of







the mounds and mural remains." \*\* There is an old Delaware tradition which says that many centuries ago, the Lenni-Lenape, a powerful race which swept in a flood of migration from the far West, found a barrier to its eastward progress in a mighty civilization which was entrenched in the river valleys east of the Mississippi. The people who occupied these fortified seats are traditionally denominated the ALLEGEWI. The two nations then confronting each other upon the banks of the Mississippi measured the situation with a civilized eye—the Lenni-Lenape diplomatically parleying for the right of passage, and the subtle Allegewi hypocritically affecting to hear. As a result of these diplomatic negotiations, the Lenni-Lenape were treacherously assailed in an attempted passage, and driven back, though not utterly destroyed, by their perfidious foe. But the tradition further relates that there was a coincident migration of the warlike Iroquois from the far West on a higher line of latitude, and that this people were seeking to effect a passage of the same stream at another point. The Lenni-Lenape, speedily rallying from their repulse, strike a military league with the Iroquois, proclaim a war of extermination against the Allegewi, reduce their strongholds, desolate their lands, and drive them southward in disastrous retreat—their chosen seats being abandoned to the conqueror in tumultuous haste, and themselves becoming a nation of wanderers upon the shores of the stream which they had perfidiously attempted to defend." \*\*\*

There are other traditions "That the prehistoric inhabitants of Kentucky were at some indeterminate period overwhelmed by a tide of savage invasion from the North", and upon this point, "Indian tradition, as far as it goes, is positive and explicit. It is related, in a posthumous fragment on Western Antiquities, by Rev.



In eastern Ky. large seams of coal often crop out along the roadside. Here is almost 3 feet seam with a parting of slate near the middle. Concrete Highway. Sept. 1946.

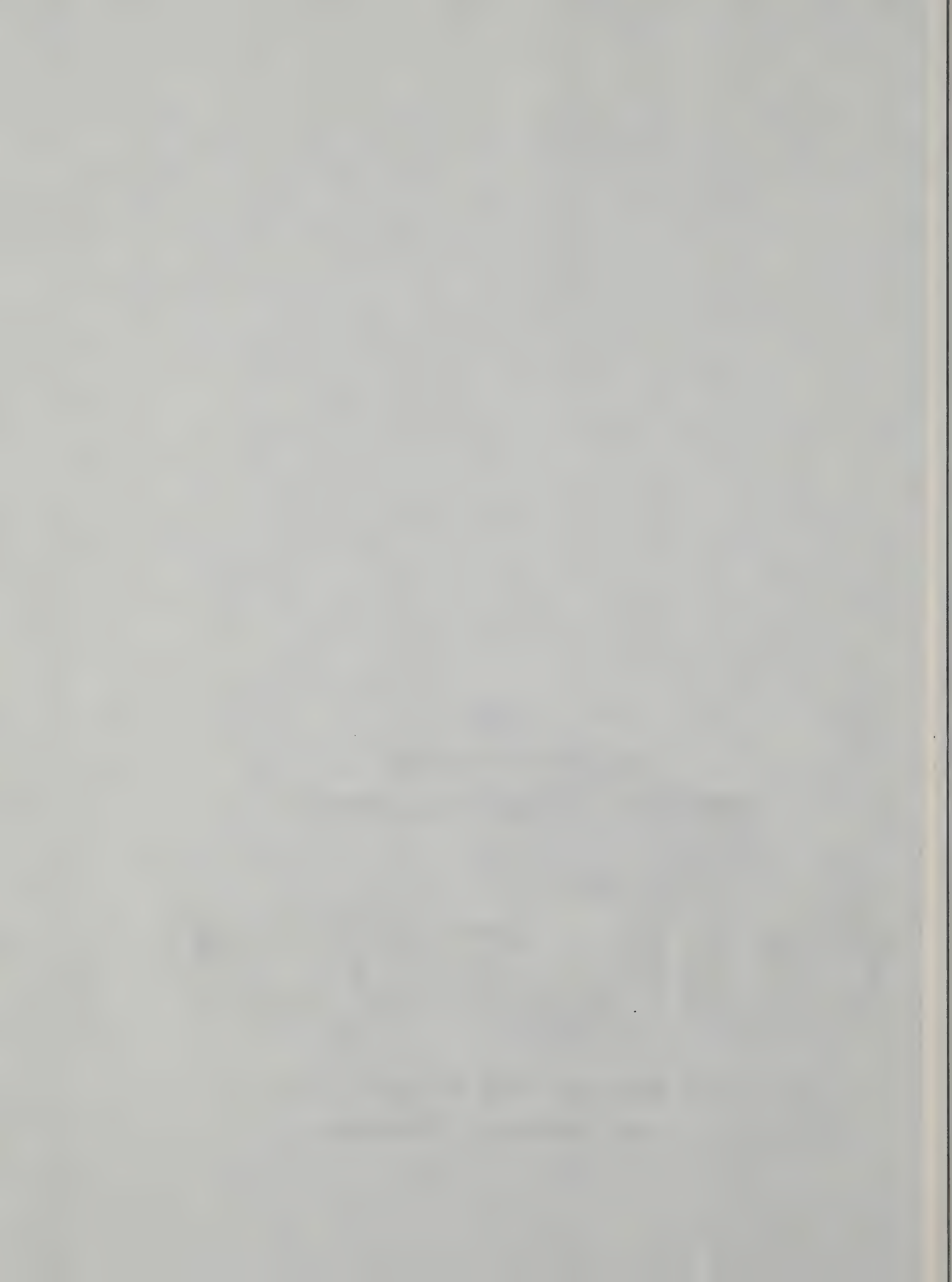
John P. Campbell, M.D., which was published in the early part of the present century, that Col. James Moore, of Kentucky, was told by an old Indian that the primitive inhabitants of this State had perished in a war of extermination waged against them by the Indians; that the last great battle was fought at the Falls of the Ohio; and that the Indians succeeded in driving the Aborigines into a small island below the Rapids, 'where the whole of them were cut to pieces.' The Indian further said this was an undoubted fact handed proofs of it under his eyes as soon as the waters of the Ohio became low. When the waters of the river had fallen, an examination of Sandy Island was made, and 'a multitude of human bones was discovered'."

There is similar confirmation of this tradition in the statement of General George Rogers Clark, that there was a great burying-ground on the northern side of the river, but a short distance below the Falls. According to a tradition imparted to the same gentleman by the Indian chief Tobacco, the battle of Sandy Island decided finally the fall of Kentucky, with its ancient inhabitants. When Colonel McKee commanded on the Kanawha (says Dr. Campbell), he was told by the Indian chief Cornstalk, with whom he had frequent conversations, that Ohio and Kentucky (Tennessee is also associated with Kentucky in the prehistoric ethnography of Rafinesque) had once been settled by a white people who were familiar with arts of which the Indians knew nothing; that these whites, after a series of bloody contests with the Indians had been exterminated; that the old burial-places were the graves of an unknown people; and that the old forts had not been built by Indians, but had come down from 'a very long ago' people, who were of a white complexion, and skilled in the arts."

"In addition to this traditional testimony, various and striking traces of a deadly conflict have been found all along the Ohio border. To say nothing of the vast system of fortifications covering exposed and important points, and evidently designed as a general barrier against the hostile incursions, there are significant traces of former conflicts in the old 'battle-fields' of Bourbon, Pendleton, and Bracken counties, which, clearly indicating occurrences beyond the pale of the historic period, confirm in some measure the traditional theory or belief of a protracted and desolating struggle for the possession of this border-land. And doubtless the familiar appellation of 'The Dark and Bloody Ground' originated in the gloom and horror with which the Indian imagination naturally invested the traditional scenes and events of the troubled period. \*\*\*\*\* The old Indian who described to Colonel Moore the sanguinary and decisive battle of Sandy Island expressed great astonishment that white people could live in a country which had been the scene of such conflict; and an ancient Sac whom Colonel Joe Hamilton Daviess met at St. Louis, in 1800, gave utterance to similar expressions of surprise. Kentucky, he said, was filled with the ghosts of its slaughtered inhabitants; how could the white man make it his home?"

As evidence of the advancement in art and the working of gold, iron, and of the vastness of commercial interests and the methods of transportation and communication of this pre-historic people, one needs only to look into the vast store of fine art and trinkets uncovered in the mounds scattered throughout Kentucky, and the Mississippi and its tributaries, especially the Ohio and its tributaries. In Bracken County, Kentucky, is a noted burying ground of this early civiliza-







tion. "A scientific writer in Wm. Gibbes Hunt's *Western Review*, published in Lexington, in February 1820, makes repeated allusions to 'the large cemetery or burying-ground at Augusta.' He mentions a clay rattle found therein, formed into the shape of a parrot or cockatoo's head, hollow within, and having a few loose balls of clay which produced the sound. He was in possession of two iron bracelets, four of which were found on the left arm of a female skeleton found there—conclusive proof that our Aborigines were acquainted with iron. They were formed with a loop at one extremity, and extended in an oval shape to a knob at the other end, which hitched into the loop. The elongated central part of the oval was the thickest, from which it gradually tapered toward the clasp. The bracelets were much corroded and the loops destroyed; but even their then state of preservation could only be accounted for by the fortunate circumstances that the alluvial soil of the burial ground was free from mineral acids. A few small beads obtained from this burying ground also fell into the hands of this writer, who did not analyze them, but after close examination judged that they were formed out of cyanite. They were of a light blue color, drilled and polished. They were much harder than glass, and the operation of drilling them must have been very tedious, without the use of steel instruments."

A letter to the author of the first edition of Collin's History, written in 1846, by Gen. John Payne, then a venerable citizen of Augusta, "gives the following interesting account of the ancient remains discovered there: The bottom on which Augusta is situated, is a large burying ground of the ANCIENTS. A post hole cannot be dug without turning up human bones. They have been found in great numbers, and of all sizes, everywhere between the mouths of Bracken and Locust creeks, a distance of about a mile and a half. From the cellar under my dwelling, sixty by seventy feet, one hundred and ten skeletons were taken. I numbered them by the skulls; and there might have been many more, whose skulls had crumbled into dust. My garden was a cemetery; it is full of bones, and the richest ground I ever saw. The skeletons were of all sizes, from seven feet to the infant. David Kilgour (who was a tall and very large man) passed our village at the time I was excavating my cellar, and we took him down and applied a thigh bone to his—the owner, if well proportioned, must have been some ten or twelve inches taller than Kilgour, and the lower jaw bone would slip on over his, skin and all. \*\*\*\* Among the Indians there is no tradition that any town was located near here, or that any battle was ever fought near here. When I was in the army, I inquired of old Crane, a Wyandott, and of Anderson, a Delaware, both intelligent old Chiefs, and they could give no information in reference to these remains of antiquity. They knew the localities at the mouth of Locust, Turtle, and Bracken creeks, but they knew nothing of any town or village near there. In my garden Indian arrow heads of flint have been found, and an earthenware of clay and pounded muscle. Some of the largest trees of the forest were growing over these remains when the land was cleared in 1792." (Vol 2, p. 93, Collin's Hist. of Ky.)

"The first courthouse in Harlan county was built upon a mound in Mount Pleasant—upon which, in 1808, the largest forest trees were growing. In Aug. 1838 a new courthouse<sup>1</sup> was erected upon the same mound, requiring a deeper foundation and more digging—with

these discoveries: Human bones, some small, others very large, indicating that the bodies had been buried in a sitting posture; several skulls with most of the teeth fast in their sockets, and perfect; the skull of a female, with beads and other ornaments which apparently hung around the neck. Close by the larger bones was a half gallon pot, superior in durability to any of modern ware; made of clay and of periwinkles pounded to powder; glazed on the outside, and the outside covered with little rough knots, nearly an inch in length. A neat and well formed pipe, of the usual shape, and various other ornaments and tools evincing ingenuity and skill were found; also, charcoal in a perfect state apparently. The mound abounded in bones, shell, and fragments of stones, in all stages of decay. They were found from three to five feet below the surface.

In 1870 more human bones were dug from it, together with nicely polished weights, and some pipes—made of hard blue stone." (Vol. 2, p. 320, Collin's Hist. of Ky.)

This race of people who inhabited this region of the Mississippi and Ohio, and tributaries, were much advanced in the arts and civilization, and built mounds of various shapes and types,—some apparently for places of worship, others for defense, or burying-grounds, or places of outlook; and from these mounds of varying sizes and purpose, they took the name of Mound Builders.



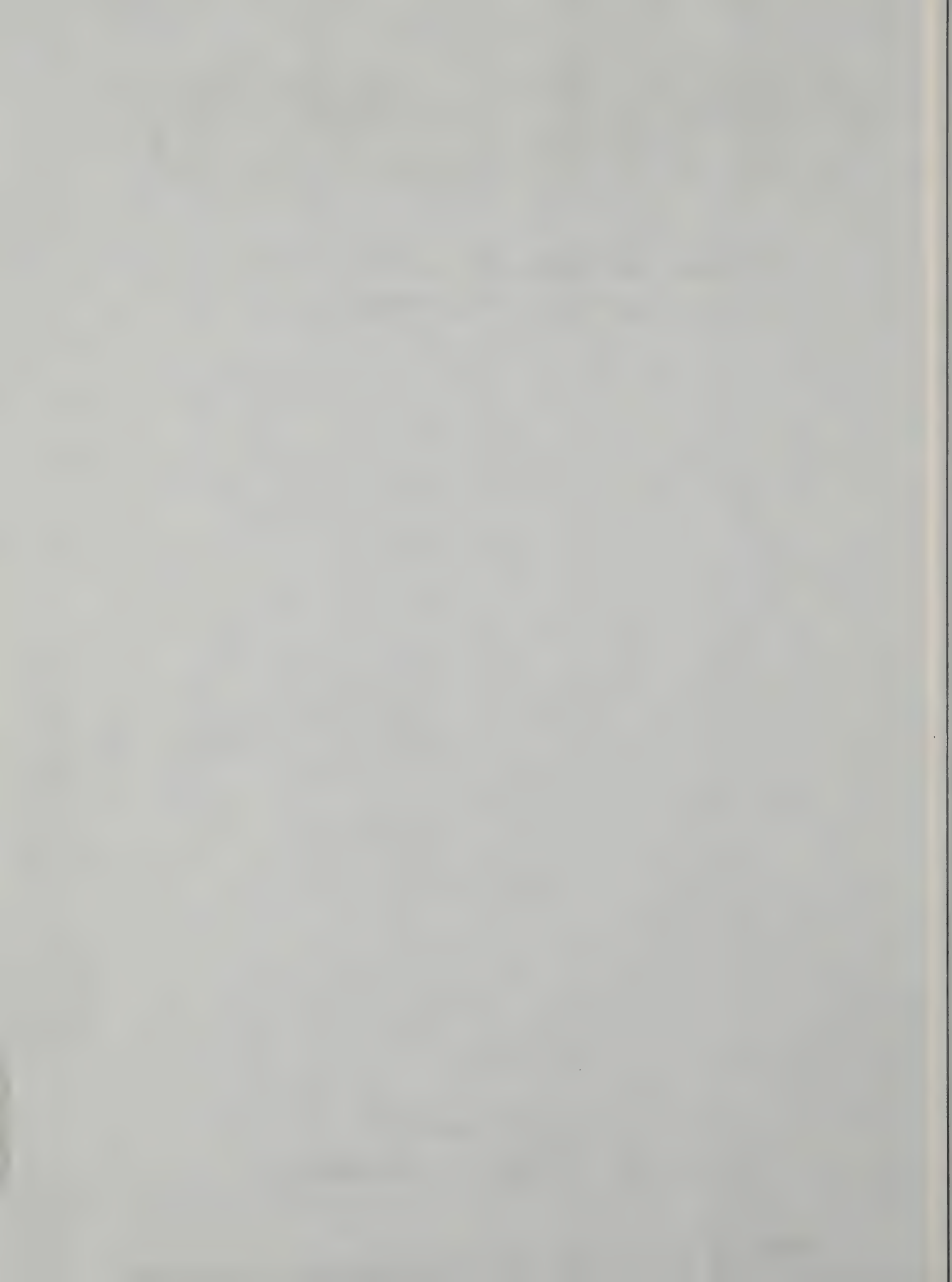
Boiler hauled from Meek Branch 9-15-1911.  
Shops, store, office and dwelling. Soon  
these were replaced with modern brick  
buildings shown in other places in this  
book.

## THE CAPITAL OF KENTUCKY

In the year 1780 W. M. Bryan "one of the founders of Bryan Station", Stephen Frank, and others were on their way from Bryan Station and the Fort at Lexington, to Mann's Salt Licks, in now Jefferson Co., for the purpose of procuring salt; and while camping on the bank of the Kentucky River, where the town of Frankfort now stands, were attacked by a company of Indians. Frank was instantly killed, two others wounded, and the rest of the company escaped. From this circumstance it is said that the place was called Frankfort. (Vol. 2 Collin's History of Kentucky, p. 241).

<sup>1</sup>—Uncle John Shell, who died a very few years ago a citizen and resident of Leslie County, Ky., and reputed to be the oldest citizen in Ky. at the time of his death, helped to hew the logs that went into this new courthouse. It is said that Uncle John could kill a squirrel in the tallest hickory tree with his old hog rifle, when he was one hundred years of age.







### Daniel Boone

Daniel Boone, one of the earliest pioneers and settlers of Kentucky, was not an educated man. He was of hardy stock with plenty of mother wit and stamina, and was an explorer and Indian fighter. The wilderness infested with wild animals and Indians had an uncanny influence upon him. He was the first road builder in Kentucky and built what has long since been known as the Wilderness Road or Boone's Trail through Cumberland Gap to near Crab Orchard, Kentucky. As evidence of his lack of education a letter written to the Governor of Kentucky by him is here reproduced:

sir february the 11th 1796

after my Best Respts to your Excelancy and famly I wish to inform you that I have sum intention of undertaking this New Rode that is to be Cut through the Wilderness and I think My Self intitiled to the ofer of the Bisness as I first Marked out that Rode in March 1775 and Never Re'd anything for my trubel and Sepose I am no Statesman I am a Woodsman and think My Self as Capable of Making and Cutting that Rode as any other man Sir if you think with Me I would thank you to wright mee a Line By post the first opportuneaty and he will Lodge it at Mr. John Miler son hinkston fork as I wish to know Where and When it is to be Laet So that I may attend at the time.

I am Deer Sir your very omble servant

Daniel Boone

To his Excelancy governor Shelby." (Vol. 2 Collin's History of Ky. p. 242)

Did Daniel Boone ever come into the headwaters of the North Fork? The old settlers believed that he preceded them into the county. However, none of them seemed to know why, since he knew the beaten path through Cumberland Gap and on into the settlements far down the North Fork. Some of the older settlers claimed that while hunting for his lost brother, Squire Boone, he came into the head waters of the river section and spent several months. If so, these months were spent around the mouth of Boone's Fork and the ridges of North Fork adjacent thereto. That he carved his name on trees and rocks for miles around Boone's Fork seems certain.

Daniel Boone was of a restless spirit and refused to be cramped by the advancing civilization. Just as he had come ahead of civilization into Kentucky, when it became more and more settled, again, he moved west-

ward, by floating down the Ohio River in a canoe to Missouri in 1797, and there he later settled on the banks of the Missouri at or near the mouth of the Charette. He loved the great open spaces and steadily retreated before the wave of formal civilization. He died and was buried in the state of Missouri.

The Legislature of Kentucky, at its 1844-45 session, adopted measures to have the bodies of Daniel Boone and his wife, moved from their place of burial on the banks of the Missouri, for the purpose of interment at Frankfort, Kentucky. It is very fitting that the soil of Kentucky, should be the final resting place for this pioneer who had done so much to wrest the territory from the Indians. It was necessary to secure the consent of the relatives of the decedents for the removal of the bodies to this final resting place, and on the 13th of September, 1845, the ashes of the venerable dead, were committed with fitting ceremonies to their final repose, the Public Cemetery in Frankfort, Ky. The occasion was one of much concern and friends and admirers from all parts of the state were present and many distinguished persons participated in the ceremonies. Hon. John J. Crittenden delivered the oration. (Vol. 2 Collin's History of Ky., p. 251-252)

(Continued to Page 40)

### MYSELF

I have to live with myself, and so  
I want to be fit for myself to know;  
I want to be able as days go by  
Always to look myself straight in the eye;  
I don't want to stand with the setting sun  
And hate myself for the things I've done.

I don't want to keep on a closet shelf  
A lot of secrets about myself,  
And fool myself as I come and go  
Into thinking that nobody else will know  
The kind of a man I really am;  
I don't want to dress myself up in sham.

I want to go out with my head erect,  
I want to deserve all men's respect;  
But here in the struggle for fame and pelf,  
I want to be able to think of myself,  
While here on earth as I come and go,  
I'm not bluster or bluff or empty show.

I never can hide myself from me,  
I see what others may never see,  
I know what others may never know,  
I never can fool myself — and so,  
Whatever happens, I want to be  
Self-respecting and conscience-free.

Justice Robert H. Jackson, in his closing argument for Nazi War Criminals, speaking of their dislike for the law which condemned them said:

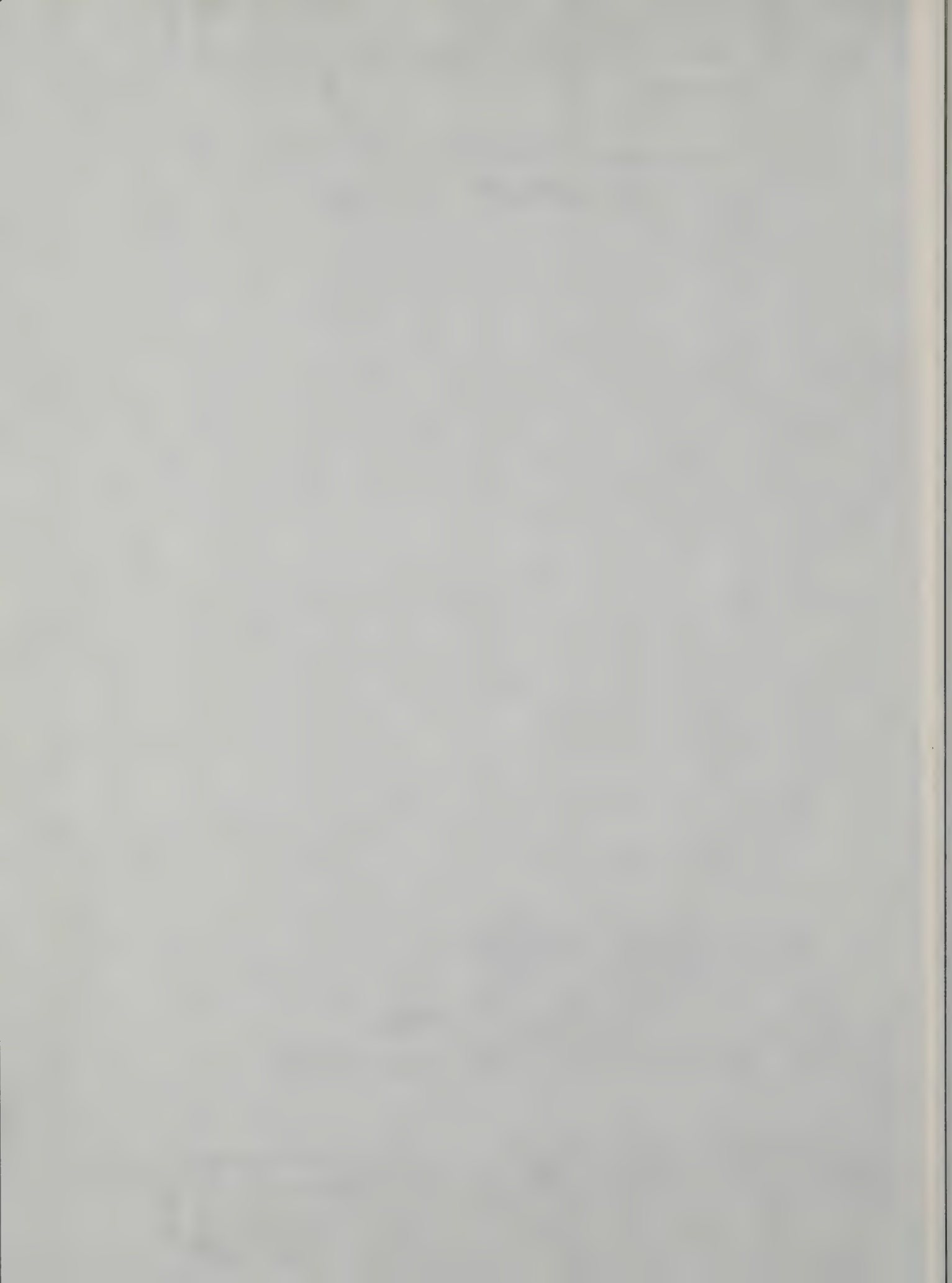
"No thief ere felt the halter draw  
With good opinion of the law."

"I believe in training more than anything else. It doesn't have to be College training, either. A door will open to a man who is using his leisure time in preparing himself." —Albert H. Morrill, Pres. Kroger Grocery & Baking Co.



Photo by Cooner, Hazard, Ky.







The  
**Taylor Furniture Co.**  
 and  
**Taylor Food Market**

on  
 Highway No. 119 above Neon Junction  
 Box 86 Neon, Ky.



Photo by Cooner, Hazard, Ky.

The home of The Taylor Furniture Co. and Taylor Food Market, with plenty of parking space in front, is the pride of busy and thrifty shoppers.

### REWARD FOR ENTERPRISE

In 1944 S. H. Taylor opened the doors on his first real business venture . . . The Taylor Furniture Company, located on Potter's Fork between Neon Junction and Jenkins on Highway 119.

In 1946 he started the Taylor Food Market at the same location.

And now, in the autumn of 1946, he is laying the foundation for a new Good Gulf Super Service Station, which will join his other holdings on Potter's Fork.

For the year 1947 he has other plans for expansion, foremost of which is the opening of possibly three other stores in the eastern Kentucky coal fields.

Yet fifteen years ago S. H. Taylor was completing school at Berea College. And from that point on, his story reads like one of the old Horatio Alger books . . . almost unbelievable were it not for the fact that proof exists today in tangible form to substantiate his success story.

S. H. Taylor held only one job before going into business for himself; and that was with the A&P Tea Company at Neon. For two years he clerked, then

"Unless a tree has borne blossoms in the spring you will vainly look for fruit on it in Autumn."

—Hare

"The mind of a great achiever is a tomorrow mind."

—Dr. Frank Crane



Mr. S. H. Taylor

was promoted to butcher, and later to manager of the store, which position he held for nine years.

It was here, under the rigid and thorough guidance of the A&P management, that Mr. Taylor received the schooling in good business practices that was to lift him so quickly into a successful merchandising business of his own.

But the story of Mr. Taylor's rapid advance, however, easy it may appear on the surface, was not devoid of sacrifice and hard work. He knew what he wanted and did not waver once in his efforts to attain that goal.

While acting as store manager for the A&P at Neon, Mr. Taylor saved most of his salary toward establishing his own business. At that time his wife was operating a beauty salon in the same city, the income from which met their living expenses. Today Mr. and Mrs. Taylor own that beauty shoppe . . . plus their other interests.

Even the most sanguine observers attribute a goodly portion of Mr. Taylor's business success to the spirit of restless enterprise that actuates his every move. During the barren years of rationing and shortages, when most stores had only empty shelves to offer their customers, Mr. Taylor scoured the country and dug up many of these hard-to-get articles. It is this trait of his character that has enabled S. H. Taylor to prosper when many were struggling to hang on until things got better.

If it's hard to get . . . try Taylor's.



Photo by Cooner, Hazard, Ky.

This beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, located nearby their stores, is one of the most modern in Letcher Co. The gardens are a bird paradise, — the home, a woman's dream.







Meade's Service Station

### THE SERVICE THAT COUNTS

Right in the center of the big Y that is formed by the joining of the roads at Neon Junction stands the business establishment of one of Letcher County's youngest successful business men. At twenty-one Jesse Meade has had a lot of experience.

During the war he was in the Navy, but once released to civilian life, he let no grass grow under his feet. He immediately procured the Standard Oil Service Station, known as the Junction Service Station, and started in business for himself. That was in November 1945, and today his station is a bee-hive of activity.

He handles a complete line of Standard Oil products, Gasoline, oil, Atlas Tires and tubes. The services he renders are many . . . Washing, lubrication, tire repair, battery checking and many other lesser services.

This business is not new to Jesse. He had several years experience in station work before starting on his own, and this past experience is one of the contributing factors to his present success.

Jesse Meade is a son of Ballard Meade of Millstone and is connected with the big Wright family on his mother's side. She was Nannie Wright before her marriage. Jesse is now married to the former Winfred Cook, also of Millstone. They have two children, a son of three years and a daughter of sixteen months.

He plans many improvements to the property at his present valuable location just as soon as building conditions permit. One of the major improvements contemplated is a concrete drive across the entire front of his property.

Jesse Meade's Junction Service Station is a mighty busy spot . . . and not without reason.

"They say I tell a great many stories; I reckon I do, but I have found in the course of a long experience that common people, take them as they run, are more easily informed through the medium of a broad illustration than in any other way, and as to what the hypercritical few may think, I don't care."

—A. Lincoln

### FIRSTS IN KENTUCKY

- 1730—The first white American known to have been in Western Kentucky was John Salling of Virginia while a prisoner among the Cherokee Indians.
- 1748—The first white visitor in Southeastern Kentucky through Cumberland Gap was Dr. Thomas Walker.
- 1772—The first authorized surveys by official surveyors under which patents were issued in 1772 were in what is now Lawrence and Greenup Counties—one of them in the name of John Fry embracing the town of Louisa. This survey and one other for John Fry had the corners marked with initials "G. W." and it is generally believed and claimed in the neighborhood that they were made by George Washington himself.
- 1774—The first express messengers were Daniel Boone and Michael Stoner, sent from Virginia in June by Governor Dunmore, "To go to the falls of the Ohio to conduct into the settlement a number of surveyors who had been sent thither by him some months before."
- 1775—The first contest or skirmish with Indians in Kentucky was just before day on Sunday morning, March 25, about five miles south of Richmond, Madison County.
- 1775—The first buckets, milk pails, churns, tubs and noggins were made at Boonsboro by Wm. Poague. Later he also made the wood work of the first plow and the first loom.
- 1775—The first store in Kentucky was at Boonesboro, where Henderson & Co. sold goods in April.
- 1775—The first division of town lots by drawing (lottery, they call it) was set for Saturday evening, April 22, at Boonesboro. There were 54 lots, and no blanks; but dissatisfaction arising, the drawing was postponed until next day. Next day Col. Henderson's journal said they "drew lots, and spent the day without public worship."
- 1776—The first female captives by Indians were the three young daughters of Colonels Daniel Boone and Richard Calloway from a canoe in the Kentucky River near Boonesboro, July 14.

(Continued on Page 9)



This is one of the first three houses built in Letcher Co. on the waters of the Cumberland River. Although this house is more than a Century old the masonry in the chimney, which was built, not with cement mortar, but with clay mud, rivals the work of modern masonry.







Photo by Cooner, Hazard, Ky.

Neon, Ky. — Phone 2981

### THE EVOLUTION OF A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS

"Big Oaks from little acorns grow." So went the old adage, and it has lost none of its pith nor truth today. For behind the scenes of every successful business, one will find the little beginnings, the years of constant struggle, and above all that steadfastness of purpose so essential to success.

THE WRIGHT MOTOR COMPANY of NEON is no exception to this rule. When JESSE E. WRIGHT, the owner and manager, first came to Neon, he started work as a barber. It was not the trade that he liked. It was, at that time, only a means toward an end, because there was always within him an irresistible desire to tinker with things mechanical.

So, it was only natural that after a short while he should give up his barber's trade and start work as a mechanic in a garage. That first garage didn't belong to Jesse E. Wright, but in it he learned his trade . . . with the dream always in the back of his mind that one day he would own one of his own.

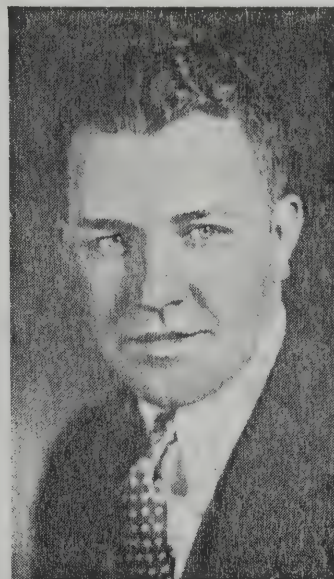
Then followed a series of business ventures, all pointing toward the same focal point . . . the ownership of his own garage. At one time he was the owner of a fleet of taxi cabs that operated out of Neon. But there was one singular thing about this series of business undertakings . . . not a single one of them failed. Every business that Jesse E. Wright has taken hold of has proven successful under his management.

Eventually, he opened his own garage in Neon, in the building now used by the Ford Motor Company. At this location, he operated a prosperous business for some time, then decided that Neon Junction was a promising spot upon which to erect his own building.

He first opened in Neon Junction with a service station, then added an automobile repair shop. The sales department, which handles Chrysler and Plymouth new cars, as well as all types of used automobiles, was added in 1940.

But the splendid building which today houses the WRIGHT MOTOR COMPANY is not the one in which Jesse E. Wright, then a struggling young business man, first moved into at the Junction. The present building is the outgrowth of several years of constant building. And today it is one of the most modern and up-to-date

structures of its kind in eastern Kentucky.



Mr. Jesse Wright

In addition to the sale of Chrysler and Plymouth new cars and various types of used vehicles, the WRIGHT MOTOR COMPANY offers a complete line of parts and accessories, excellent repair and service department, plus a complete line of STANDARD OIL PRODUCTS.

The WRIGHT MOTOR COMPANY of today is truly a one-stop garage.

One of the outstanding characteristics of Jesse Wright as a businessman is his quick judgment. This trait springs quite naturally from a thorough under-

standing and knowledge of his business . . . a business that was learned from the bottom up. He will trade anything at anytime.

Often he has taken horses, mules, even hogs and chickens in lieu of cash on trades. He has traded for automobiles lying in a ditch line or wrecked cars lying at the foot of some high embankment. These cars often have valuable parts that can be salvaged and turned to good use in these days of shortages. A few times he has traded for cars by telephone, some of

(Continued to Following Page)

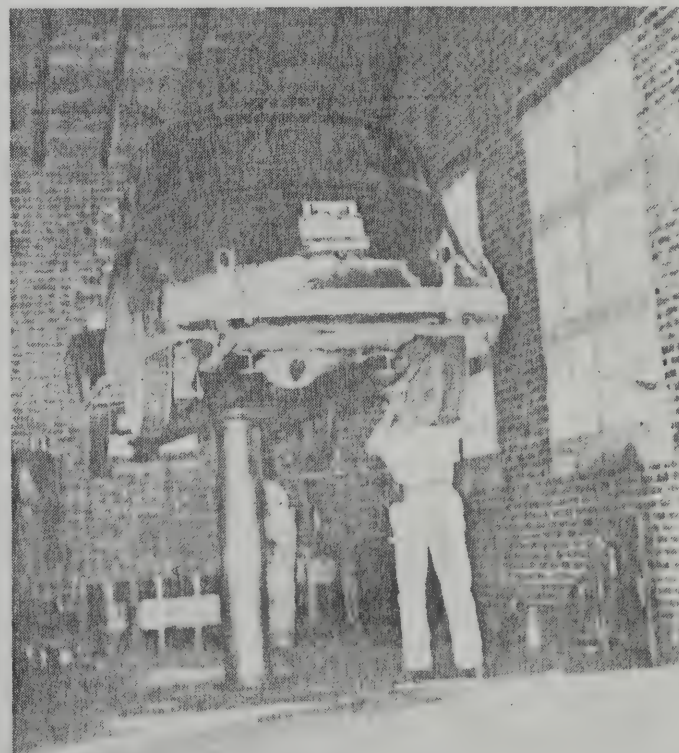


Photo by Cooner, Hazard, Ky.

Modern Grease Rock





which, he was later to find out, had to be towed in by a wrecker which the WRIGHT MOTOR COMPANY keeps available day and night.

The present position of eminence that the WRIGHT MOTOR COMPANY holds in Letcher County today seems almost incredible when one takes into consideration the fact that the business was started in 1939. Indeed it has been a rapid development . . . and so rapid a development is always richly earned.

Service is the thing that has lifted the WRIGHT MOTOR COMPANY so quickly to the top . . . and service is what is holding it there.

"YOU CAN'T GO WRONG WITH WRIGHT."

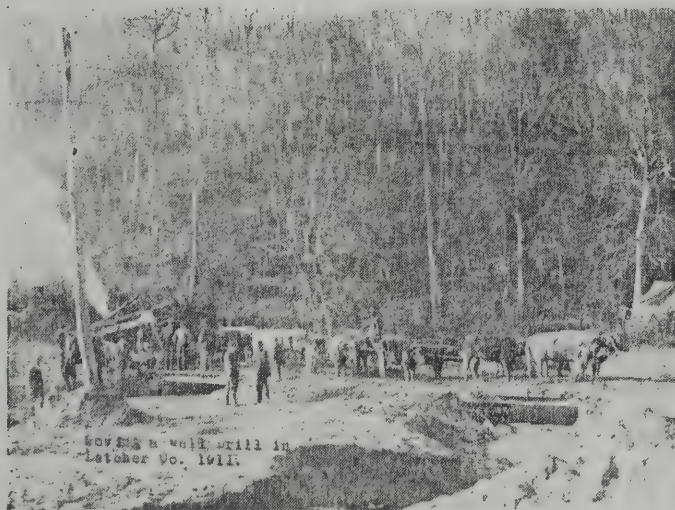
#### SOURCES OF ALL ENERGY PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES

Bituminous Coal .....	49%
Anthracite Coal .....	6%
Petroleum .....	30%
Natural Gas .....	12%
Water Power .....	3%

#### COAL'S CUSTOMERS

Consumed as follows:

Manufacturing .....	139,050,000 tons
Railroads .....	115,410,000 tons
Coke Making .....	100,756,000 tons
Retail .....	104,750,000 tons
Electrical Utilities .....	65,634,000 tons
Steel Rolling Mills .....	10,434,000 tons
Coal-Gas Retorts .....	1,721,000 tons
Export & Other .....	19,245,000 tons
Stock Piles Up .....	23,000,000 tons



The old method of moving heavy equipment and machinery.

(From Page 7)

1776—Ky. Co. created by Va. Legislature out of Fincastle Co. Oct. to commence from and after Dec. 31. Ky. became entitled to separate County Court, Justices of the peace, Sheriff Military etc. For the first time they brought law to the Ky. Territory.

1776—William Poage made its first plow and first loom west of the Alleghanies.

1776—The first marriage in Kentucky was in the Fort

at Boonesboro August 7, Samuel Henderson to Elizabeth Calloway. The ceremony was performed by Squire Boone, a brother of Daniel Boone.

1776-7—The first Cargo brought up the Mississippi and the Ohio rivers, from New Orleans to Pittsburg, was 136 kegs of powder, in the winter of 1776-7 and spring of 1777—by Capt. Wm. Linn and George Gibson. When they reached the falls of the Ohio, (now Louisville), they unexpectedly met John Smith (still living, in 1890, Woodford Co. Ky.), who assisted them in conveying it around the rapids. Each man carrying on his back three kegs at a time. They delivered the powder at Wheeling, but it was afterwards transported to Fort Pitt (Pittsburg).

1777—First Court for Ky. Co. held at Harrodsburg Sept. ordered that county seat be located at Crow's Station, afterwards Danville.

1778-79—Oldest Church now standing in Ky. built 2 miles from Boonesboro by Baptists.

1779—The first recorded town-plat was that of Boonesborough.

1779—The first ferry established by law was over the Kentucky River at Boonesboro.

1780—Louisville, largest City in Ky. incorporated, as a town— as a city 1828.

1780—The first advertisement of a legal notice in a newspaper by law, was in the Kentucky Gazette, in 1789; and the first posted up at the court house door, in 1780.

1780—The first book binder in Kentucky, or more probably the first who bound large records and dockets for court was, Wm. Essex. A record book bound by him in 1816 is still in the County Court Clerk's office, at Richmond.

1781—The first court ever held in Kentucky was for Lincoln Co. at Harrodsburg, Jan. 16. A Commission from the Governor of Va., was produced and read—appointing 13 **Gentlemen** justices of the peace, to hold the county court.

1782—"A Supreme Court for the District of Ky. provided for by Va. in May. First held at Harrodsburg by Samuel McDowell and John Floyd. The seat of holding Court was transferred to Danville.

1782—The first powder was made by Monk, a noted slave belonging to Captain James Estill of Estill Station near Richmond, Kentucky. He was taken captive by the Indians in March 1782 and was with them a few days after in the Battle of Little Mountain (Mt. Sterling); but made his escape during the battle and aided several of the wounded from the field. For this noble service he was set free and perhaps the first slave freed in Kentucky.

1783—The first horse races took place in April 1783 near Harrodsburg.

1783—The first tax levied and collected by a court in Kentucky was by Lincoln County a head tax of ten pounds of tobacco per tithe.

1783—The first collegiate institution in Kentucky and the West was Transylvania Seminary, in 1783 created by Act of the Va. Legislature.

Gorge Washington, John Adams, Aaron Burr were among the contributors to its endowment. President Monroe, General Jackson, Lafayette and Daniel Boone made visits to this school. When Lafayette visited the U. S. in 1824, he visited in Lexington.





The first schoolhouse in Ky. was built on the site of what is now Cheapside St., Lexington.

Oldest Medical Library in the U. S. is at Transylvania University.

Jefferson Davis, while a student at Transylvania College, lived at the Southeast corner of Limestone and High Streets.

1783—First Jail in Ky. was built at Danville, first brick house in Ky. Territory.

The first penitentiary was not completed until 1800 ready for use.

1783—The first Tobacco inspection was established at the mouth of Hickman's Creek, on the Kentucky river.

1787—The first flour and bread inspection at Louisville.

1787—The first Steamboats in the world were built by Kentuckians: John Fitch, in 1787-1789, who had first conceived the idea while sitting upon the bank of the Ohio River in June 1780; by James Rumsey, in 1787 and 1793; and in 1794 by Edward West, on a different plan for which he received a patent in 1802.

August 1st. First paper mill established in Kentucky by Craig, Parker and Co. in Georgetown. Continued until 1836, when it was burned.

1787—First paper mill operated by Jacob Meyers in Lincoln Co.

1788—Free Masonary west of the Alleghanies had its beginning in Lodge No. 25, at Lexington, Ky. Nov.

1788—John Filson Ky's. first historian was killed by indians on Little Miami.

1789—First settlement on Big Sandy about the forks, on the Va. side near the present site of Louisa was made by Charles Van Couver— Made on a survey ran by George Washington for John Fry in 1770.

1790—First toll gate at Cumberland Gap.

1791—The first Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals of Kentucky was Justice Innes.

The first Judges of District Courts appointed December 19, were Samuel McDowell, John C. burn, Buckner Thruston, Stephen Ormsby, James G. Hunter and Thomas Todd.

1792—April 3. Convention met at Danville and drafted a constitution which was adopted.

1792—June 1—Ky. admitted to the Union.

1792—The first Governor was Isaac Shelby of Lincoln County, who took office June 4. The Gov. and legislature assembled at Lexington.

1792—The first Senators in Congress were John Brown, 1792 to 1805, and John Edwards, 1792 to 1795.

This same John Brown, a resident of Kentucky District when a part of the State of Virginia, had been one of the representatives in Congress from Virginia.

1792—The first Legislature of Kentucky met at Lexington June 4. Members of the legislature received \$1.00 per day.

The first House of Kentucky was a two story log building in Lexington that stood on the east side of Main Street about half way between Mill and Broadway Streets.

June 6th. Robert Todd, John Edwards, John Allen and Thomas Kennedy, Commissioners, fix upon Frankfort as the seat of Government of the new state. (Collins Hist. of Ky. V. 1. page 508-520)

## NEON SUPPLY CO.

Neon, Ky.

Phone 3801

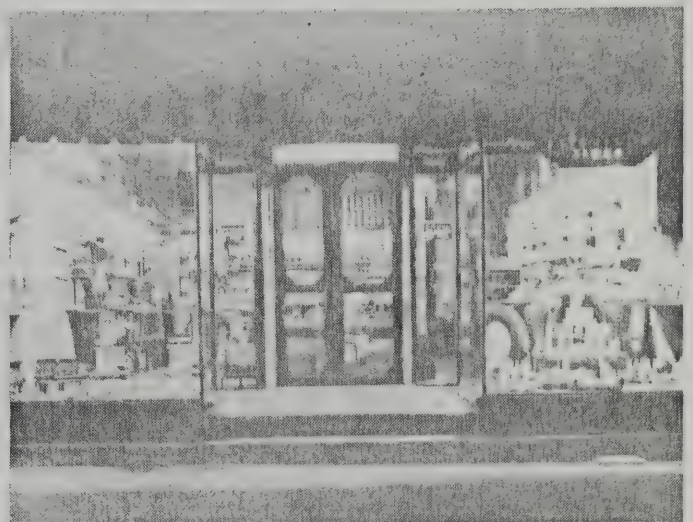
Main Street

During his second visit to South America, Columbus was astonished when he observed that the Indians were playing with a black, heavy ball made from a vegetable gum. One man said, "It bounces around like its alive." It was about three centuries thereafter that this material was brought to Europe for commercial purposes. It was first used to rub out pencil marks.

Raw rubber is obtained from a milky liquid known as "Latex", taken from a wide variety of trees generally growing in Tropical countries. Para is the best rubber and is the product of Para Trees growing in the Amazon Valley. Most trees yield four to five pounds of rubber per annum. Some trees will yield as much as thirty pounds per annum.

No product identical to natural rubber in its physical and chemical properties has ever been synthesized artificially. The intelligent selection and use of various synthetics by rubber manufacturers have enabled them to improve the quality of many articles and to meet the requirements of a greater variety of service than was possible with natural rubber alone.

## Firestone STORES



Inside view of Firestone Store taken at night from Main Street

Harvey S. Firestone, through scientific research, developed a tire and tube of a superior quality. Later the Firestone stores were organized with the sole idea of furnishing automobile accessories of a superior quality at a reasonable price, to the owners of cars and trucks, so that today, anyone with modest means can enjoy the safety of tires and tubes of superior quality, and other accessories of the very best materials and construction, at a reasonable price. When you want the best in quality and construction buy Firestone products.

The Firestone store at Neon, Ky., under the able management of Leland Draughn, affectionately known as "Pud", will serve you best, all your needs in automobile accessories, sporting goods, and bicycles and toys for boys and girls. Mr. Draughn is a self-made man and with a determination to render a real service to the public through courteous and fair dealing, has endeared himself to all who know him. Always visit Firestone first for your needs. The best is always the most satisfactory.







This is a very unusual picture taken from the top of Pine Mountain, near Polly's Pine Mt. Hotel, in Letcher County. No one who has never had the opportunity to see the mountains from this vantage point can appreciate the real beauty of this section. It is a rare privilege for anyone, at the first gray dawn of the early morning, to look down upon the sea of fog lazily hovering about the peaks of the Pine and Black Mountains, soon to be kissed away by the first ray of the early morning sun.

- 1793—The second Legislature met November 4, at Frankfort.
- 1794—April 15th. "Good old Kentucky Salt" was for the first time advertised for sale in Cincinnati. Probably brought down from Lower Blue Licks where it was made.
- 1795—Act passed to compel each man tithable to kill a certain number of squirrels or crows.
- 1797—Henry Clay moves from Virginia to Lexington, Kentucky.
- 1798—Transylvania Univ. established by union of Transylvania Seminary and Kentucky Academy.
- 1799—Medical College organized at Transylvania.
- 1799—The first law school was a department of Transylvania University, established in 1799; the distinguished lawyer, Col. George Nichols, its first professor.
- 1802—First Bank in Ky. chartered Ky. Insurance Co. Chartered with banking powers.

First A.B. Degree granted by Transylvania University.

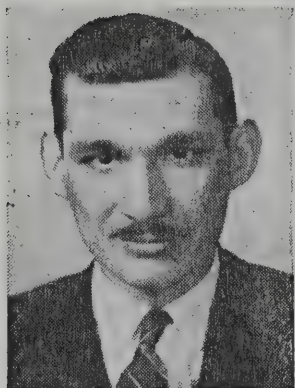
- 1803—The first family carriage and Piano was brought to Maysville, Ky. in April by Maj. Val Peers.
- 1803—The first Stage Coach route was opened 1803 from Lexington via Winchester, Mt. Sterling to Olympia Springs in Bath County.
- 1803—Sept. 10. An extraordinary shower of reddish hue, which many believed to be blood, fell over parts of Kentucky. (Turtle Creek Meeting House). (Collins' History of Kentucky Vol. 1 page 25)
- 1804—Henry Clay elected a member of the House of Representatives of Kentucky (in his absence).
- 1806—The first Pension granted by the State of Ky. for public services, was to Chief Justice George Muter, Dec. 26.
- 1806—Bank of Ky. chartered with \$1,000,000.00 capital Dec. 27.

(Continued to Page 23)





Nathaniel Collins  
First Judge of Letcher County



Archie Craft  
Coroner



John H. Gose — Jailer



S. M. Banks — Maintenance  
Foreman State Highway  
Letcher Co.

B. Dave Blair  
Tax Commissioner, 1943 -  
1946 -

Arthur Dixon  
County Judge 1946 - 1950



Letcher County Court House



Gad Johnson — Magistrate



E. B. Addington  
Magistrate Dist. No. 7



Herman Combs — Sheriff  
1946 - 1950

Aster Collins  
County Court Clerk

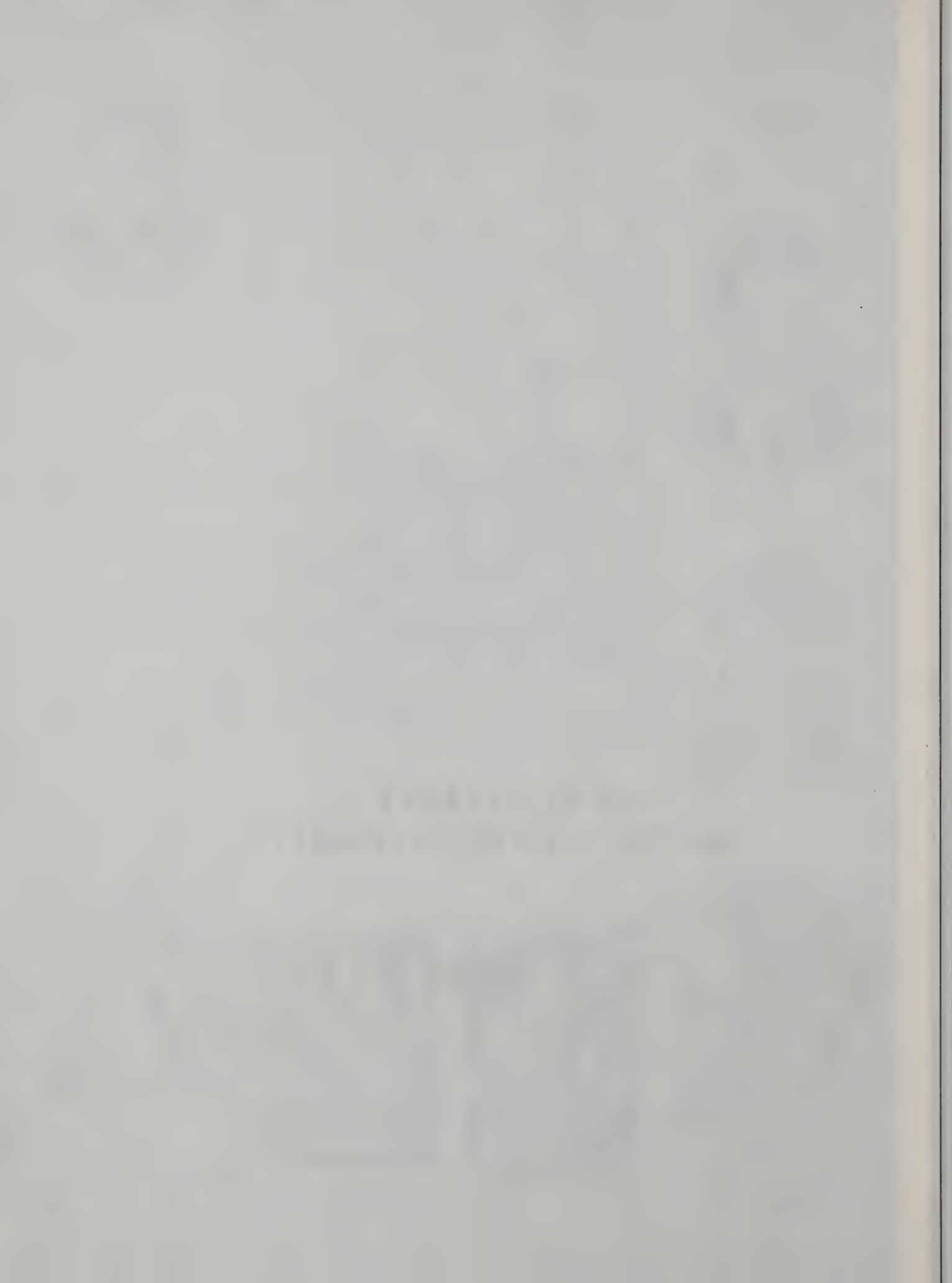
Burley W. Hale  
County Attorney 1946 - 1950

R. B. Day — Surveyor



Butler Fleming  
Magistrate Dist. No. 2, 1946 - 1948

B. E. Banks  
Magistrate Dist. No. 1





### Letcher County Seat

From the best information obtainable, it appears that the first Courthouse in Letcher County was opposite the mouth of Pert Creek. 'Twas an old log house on what is now known as the Sam Blair farm. When it came to locating the county seat of the county, a real fight arose between the citizens of Mayking Community and Whitesburg Community. Stephen Hiram Hogg owned the land on which now stands Whitesburg. He proposed to deed to the county for the purpose of the county seat, all the land where Whitesburg now stands. His proposal was accepted and he deeded the land, excepting a lot where his house stood, and which is the vacant lot, with the stone foundation, next to and adjoining the present U. S. Post Office property. The lot ran from Main Street back to Hays Street.

The first courthouse located upon the present site of the courthouse was erected from logs and planks, and about the year 18..... Later it was torn down and the present building was erected 18....., from brick made in Whitesburg, and subsequently the new addition with the aid of W.P.A. was begun in 1936 and completed Oct. 1st, 1937. The members of the Fiscal Court were Sandy Adams, County Judge, and Magistrates, F. G. Fields, Ira Collins, C. W. Craft, Jesse Bates, John Sturgill, Silas Cox, Willie G. Webb, N. W. Meade and Hansel Stamper, G. Bennett Adams, County Attorney. Their names appear on the plate inside the courthouse hall.

Mr. Runyon became Commonwealth Attorney of the new Pike Judicial District and Augustus Cornett became Commonwealth Attorney of the new Perry-Letcher Judicial District.

### AUGUSTUS CORNETT Commonwealth Attorney

### ATTORNEYS OF THE LETCHER COUNTY BAR

Blair, H. Monroe	Harvey, Lewis E.
Caudill, Harry M.	Hawk, French
Collins, John D. W.	Hays, J. L.
Combs, Stephen	Lewis, Wm. H.
Fields, Emmitt	Moore, Harvey L.
Fields, Leroy W.	Whitaker, J. Keller
Hale, Berlie W.	



W. L. Stallard, Jr. —  
Circuit Court Clerk



J. A. Runyon  
Commonwealth Attorney

### IN MEMORIAM

HON. R. MONROE FIELDS

CIRCUIT JUDGE, 1928 - 1948

The 1938 Legislature of Kentucky passed a law changing the Judicial District embracing Pike and Letcher counties so as to make Pike Co. a Judicial District and putting Letcher and Perry Counties in another. This required Hon. R. Monroe Fields to move to Pike County and become the Circuit Judge of that district and Hon. S. M. Word, Judge of the Perry and Leslie Judicial District became Judge of Letcher and Perry. Judge Fields is said to have grieved over the thought of moving from his native home of Whitesburg and leave his life-long friends and on the eve of the day he had planned to move to Pikeville, he suffered a fatal heart attack.

### CIRCUIT JUDGES OF THE LETCHER CIRCUIT COURT

Turnstall Quarles—1842-1844  
George R. McKee—1844-1848  
William B. Kinkead—1848  
James M. Rice—April Term 1850  
Edwin Trimble—March Term 1851  
Green B. Adams—Oct. Term 1851-Mai Term 1856  
Granville Pearl—1856-1868  
William H. Randell—Oct. Term 1868  
H. F. Finley—Nov. Term 1883  
D. Y. Lyttle, Special J.—June Term 1884  
H. C. Lily—1887-1892  
W. F. Hall—1893-1897  
M. J. Moss—1898-1906  
T. G. Lewis—1906-1908  
L. D. Lewis—1908-1912  
James M. Robenson—Appointed 1912-1913  
John F. Butler—1913 elected. His election was set aside and Gov. James B. McCreary appointed James M. Robenson.  
James M. Robenson—May & Aug. Terms 1914  
John F. Butler (re-elected)—1915-1919  
J. E. Childers—1919-1919  
Roscoe Vanover—1920-1921  
J. E. Childers—1922-1927  
Willie Statan—1927-(Appointed by Gov. W. M. J. Fields, to fill out term of Judge Childers who resigned.)  
R. Monroe Fields—1928-1948  
S. M. Ward—1948-

Turnstall Quarles was state Rep. from Woodford Co. 1796; Rep. From Pulaski Co. 1811, 1812-1828 member of the Sen. 1840.

Geo. R. McKee Rep. from Garrard Co. 1841-'42, 1851-'53, 1869-'71.

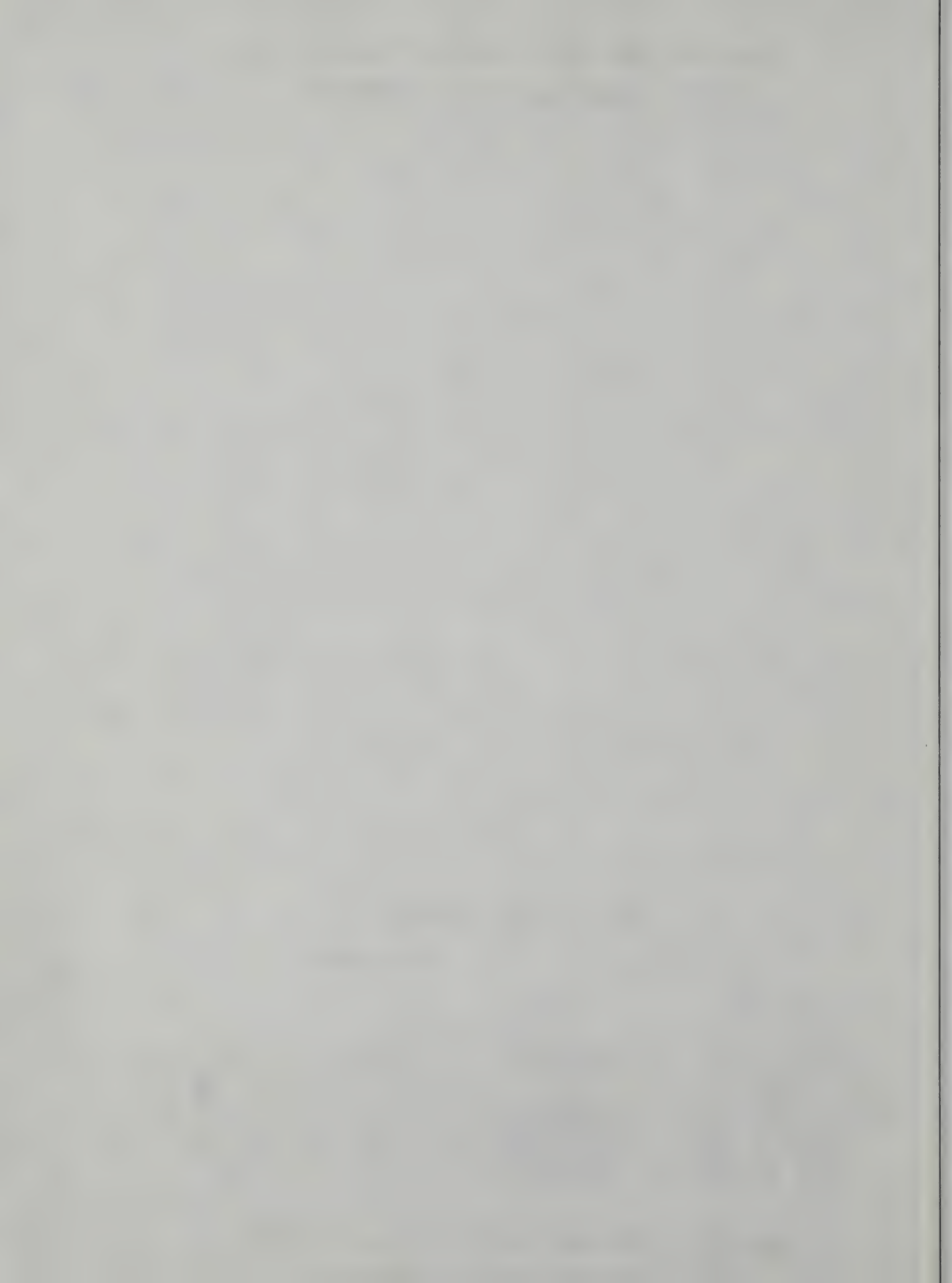
William B. Kinkead Rep. from Woodford Co. 1841.

James M. Rice Rep. from Pike Co. 1829: Ky. Sen. from Laurence Co. 1838-'42.

Edwin Trimble from Floyd Co.

Green B. Adams, Knox Co.

Granville Pearl, Rep. from Laurel Co. 1846.





## WHITESBURG

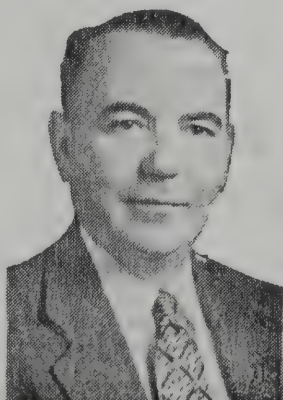
Whitesburg, became the county seat of Letcher County soon after it was formed. The first term of Circuit Court held in the county was held in an old log building near Ermine, but the first courthouse was an old log building located at the mouth of Pert Creek; and the first Circuit Court in Whitesburg was held at the home of Hiram Hogg. City was named for Congressman White whose home was on Goose Creek in Clay County, Kentucky.



Baptist Church — Whitesburg, Ky.



L. & N. Depot — Whitesburg, Ky.



J. L. Hays — City Attorney

## HON. ED WILLIAMS, Mayor of the City of Whitesburg, 1945 - 1950

Mr. Williams has held an important position for several years with the Kentucky-West Virginia Power Co. He has other business interests in the city.

Hon. E. Williams, Mayor

City Councilmen: — Dr. Lee Moore, Mr. A. T. Banks, Mr. Walter Enlow, Mr. J. Blaine Polly, Mr. Paul Vermillion, and Mr. G. R. Lewis.

Hon. J. L. Hays, City Attorney

Mr. Arch Adams, City Treasurer

Hon. Clark S. Day, Police Judge

Hon. Leroy Fields, City Clerk

Mr. Hillard Proffit, Chief of Police

*The author desires to thank the county officials in Letcher County who have been exceedingly helpful and cooperative in assisting to secure information of value in compiling the data recorded in this history. The records of both Clerk's offices are orderly and in excellent condition and preservation. Both Clerks and their assistants willingly lent a helping hand in finding any record available in their respective offices.*

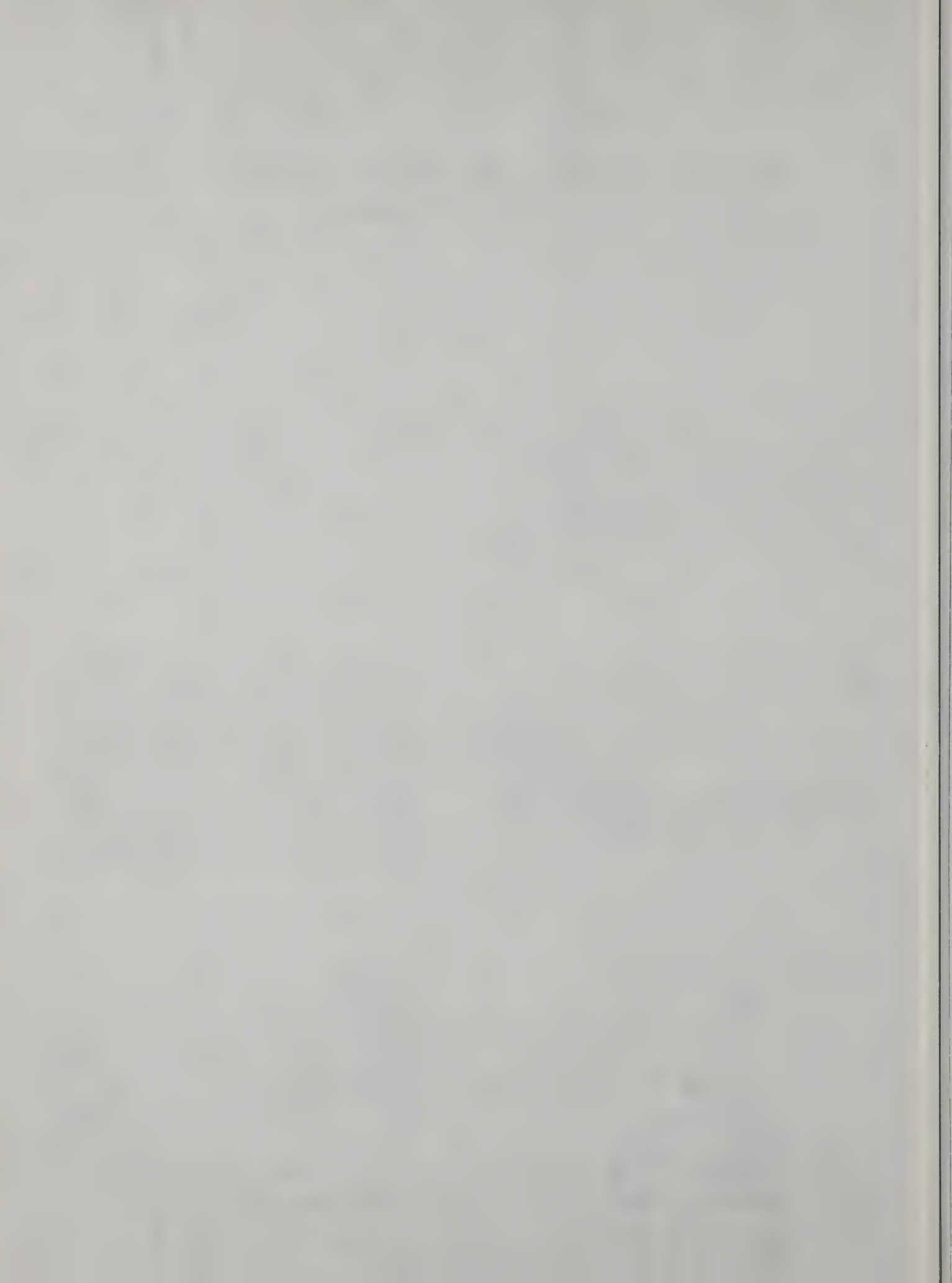
Sept. 27th, 1948, the City of Whitesburg purchased the City Water system from G. D. Polly, and plans extensive improvements.



Presbyterian Church — Whitesburg, Ky.



Methodist Church — Whitesburg, Ky.





## SEEING A NEED AND SERVING IT

During the pioneering of Kentucky and Letcher County our forefathers made the most of whatever they had at hand. Most all their work was laborious and their implements crude. Their log homes were heated with wood and their work-shops, if any, did not have any means of heating. Some lumber was manufactured by means of the Rip-Saw; wooden pegs used instead of nails; holes burned through wood; floors laid of puncheons and in many instances the kitchen did not have a floor,—mother earth served as floor.

Logs were hewn with the broad axe and a yarn string, stained with Polk Berries was used to strike a straight line to guide the hewing of the log. Door hinges were crudely made of wood and often a hole burned into the door jamb and a wooden peg inserted to hold the door shutter closed. The more elaborate door fasteners consisted of a wooden latch on the inside of the door with a string cut from deer, wild cat or ground hog hide, passing through a small hole above the latch and hanging on the outside of the door. To enter the door, one pulled the string which lifted the latch. At night the string was pulled back to the inside of the door.

The crude farm implements were usually made at home. As the population increased in the county, most every community had its blacksmith who could make shoes for oxen and later for horses, make hoes, plows and some other items. Iron was extremely scarce. The blacksmith shop consisted of an anvil, hammer, bellows and pair of tongs. The smoke from the coal used for heating the metal come out inside the small shop house which was filled with many cracks through which it could escape. Welding of iron was quite a task and very often not successful. As development progressed Borax was used to aid in making the hot irons stick together. The blacksmith served a very small territory. Lack of roads and means of transportation confined his business to a small circle or to a certain creek or valley.

Rapid strides have been made in Letcher County the past twenty years in the building of good roads, the art of welding and machine work. The growth of coal development in the county has made welding and machine shop business a necessity. The Electric & Machines Supply Co. has met this necessity in an excellent manner. Two young men who were already well trained, saw this need, combined their knowledge and efforts and chose for their business the name, Electric & Machines Supply Co., and today are rendering a splendid service to many of the more than 15 railroad mines and 300 truck mines in Letcher County. Their names are William F. Conley and A. W. Fields.

## ELECTRIC AND MACHINES CO.

WHITESBURG, KY.

PHONE 104J

William F. Conley was born July 31st, 1921, in Harlan, Kentucky, the son of William Walters Conley and Florence Elizabeth Small Conley. His father was a Mine Foreman and Mine Superintendent for 42 consecutive years. His father moved to Johnson County while William F. was very young. He attended the Public Schools of Johnson County at Paintsville, and was graduated from Paintsville High School 1938, and attended Mayo State Vocational School at Paintsville, studying Mining Mechanics. He received an Engineering Diploma from John Huntington Polytechnic In-

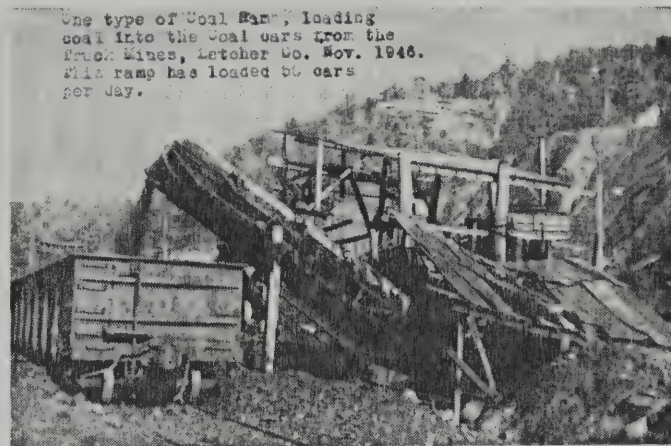


Photo by I. A. Bowles

stitute, Cleveland, O. in 1940. He taught both Torch and Arc Welding at Mayo State Vocational School for the U. S. Navy during the World War II. He enlisted in the Navy and was a Gunners Mate, remained in the Navy 18 months when he was Honorably Discharged February 24th, 1945. He located in Letcher County and with A. W. Fields, organized the Electric & Machines Supply Co., a Partnership, employing nine men, all of whom are especially trained in their line of work, with their office and place of business located in Whitesburg, Kentucky.

A. W. Fields was born at Russell, Greenup County, Ky., Nov. 23, 1906, the son of Jonas A. Fields and Ada M. Brown Fields. His parents moved to Oklahoma while he was young and remained there until 1933 when they returned to Kentucky, locating at Pikeville, and there went into the Dairying Business. He was formerly engaged in the merchantile business. He is now retired.

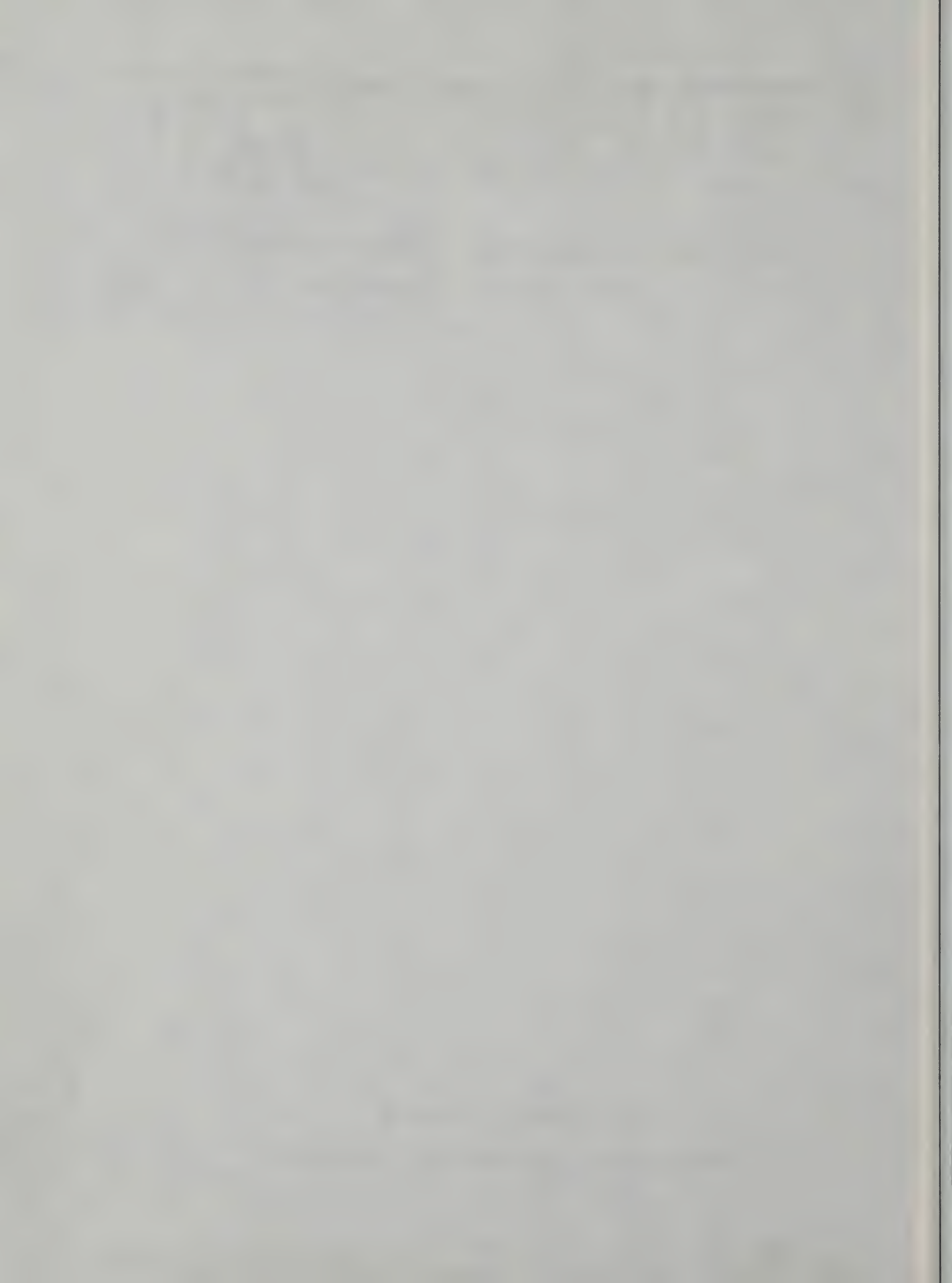
A. W. Fields acquired his early education in the Oklahoma Schools and was graduated from Wynnie Wood High School, Wynnie Wood, Okla. He studied both Torch and Arc Welding at the Mayo State Vocational School, Paintsville, Ky. completing this course Nov., 1940. Subsequently he took a Teachers Training Course at University of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky., after which he taught welding in trainings schools for four years at Jenkins, Hazard and Paintsville, Ky. He was Head Welder and Shop Supervisor for eighteen months at the Mayo State Vocational School.

He entered the welding business at Paintsville, and later sold out and moved to Whitesburg where he and Mr. Connelly who had met first as instructors in the Mayo State Vocational School, organized their present business, Oct. 15th, 1944, and since that time they have been working long hours in order to get out the work promptly that has come to their place of business.

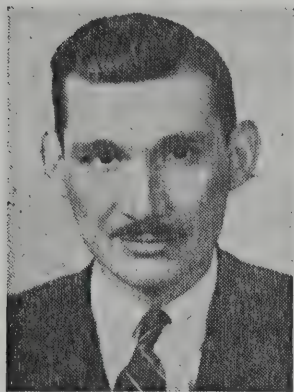
**WORK DONE.** They do all kinds of electrical mine repair work. They can weld or braze any metal, — including diacast (commonly known as "Pot Metal.") They do machine work on all kinds of mine machinery, locomotives, cutting machines, cranes, wind electric motors, or other work.

Guaranteed satisfactory service and done promptly. Their staff of workers are as follows:

1. W. E. Williams, Electrician and Armature winder.
2. Denver Stapleton— Welder and Repair man.
3. Hubert Fairchilds— Welder and Repair man.
4. Harold Long— Machinist.
5. Gordon Stafford— Salesman.
6. Wilma Menken— Secretary.







Archie Craft

Mr. Craft was born March 27, 1911 at Millstone, Letcher Co., Ky. and is the sixth child of a family of thirteen children born to William Wiley and Mary Wright Craft. He acquired his early education in the Public Schools of Letcher County and was graduated from Whitesburg High School in 1932. He married Virginia Reese of Morgan Co. Feb. 20th, 1932. He and Mrs. Craft attended Pikeville College in 1933 and 1934 and Georgetown College, Georgetown, Ky. in 1935.

He taught in the Rural Schools of Letcher six years, worked at South East Coal Company mines as a carpenter two years and inside the mines four years. While so employed he lost the greater portion of his right foot in an accident. He attended the Kentucky School of Embalming, Louisville, Ky. and registered with the State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors in Dec. 1935 and was licensed by the State Board of Funeral Directors Dec. 1938, and by the State Board of Embalmers in Kentucky, Dec. 1944.

## Craft Funeral Homes

**WHITESBURG, KY. — NEON, KY.**

**Phones 98 or 59**

**Phone 2511**

**-: Day & Night Ambulance Service :-**

The Craft Funeral Home was first organized as the Burke & Craft Funeral Home, Inc. 1935 with one Funeral Home located in the old home of Felix Fields, Whitesburg. Subsequently the corporation was dissolved and the company reorganized as the Craft Funeral Home in February, 1937 and then occupied the old Presbyterian Church Building on Church Street until Oct.



Photo by Manies, Neon, Ky.

Craft Funeral Home — Main St. — Whitesburg, Ky.

1943, when it purchased and moved to the Johnson Funeral Home on E. Main St., Whitesburg and Main St., Neon, Ky. and since that time has conducted both Modern Funeral Homes. The Neon home is managed by Ferdinand Moore, assisted by B. F. Kincer, and the Whitesburg home is under the management of Archie Craft, assisted by Mrs. Virginia Craft, Clyde Caudill and Donald Froste.



Mrs. Virginia Craft

Virginia Reese Craft was born Sept. 5, 1912, in Morgan County, Ky., the daughter of S. B. and Gertrude McKenzie Reese, and is the second child of a family of five children. Her father was brought up in Pittsburgh, Pa. and came to Morgan County, Ky. in 1906 and there met and married Gertrude McKenzie. They lived in Morgan County until 1942, when they moved to Pittsburgh. Mrs. Craft attended the Public Schools and while teaching met and married Mr. Craft. She is a graduate of Whitesburg High School, 1931, attended Pikeville College 1933 and 1934, and

Georgetown College 1935. She registered with the State Board of Embalmers, February 1937, served 7 years apprenticeship, took and successfully passed the Kentucky State Board Examination and became a licensed Funeral Director in Ky. 1944.

### A Profession Wherein Love and Sympathy Count

With the passing of time the funeral profession has grown rapidly from the days of the Egyptian Embalming, through the days of no embalming to the skill of modern restorative art and means of preservation. Dignity and reverence have replaced the slipshod methods of the past. The Funeral Director has come far but his path is never smooth or task easy. The constant association with death makes the word commonplace with the Funeral Director but never without its sting. Death is always a stranger so mystifying and terrifying that every human being meets it with a sense of horror. Witnessing the sorrow, heartaches and shock of friends or strangers is always a strain to the Funeral Director.

To illustrate the funeral director's emotions, the story is told of Rosaline, a pretty young girl who was employed at a Flower Shop, and who was run down by a truck, badly mangling her pretty face. The Funeral Director's son, young in his profession, was sent for the body. He returned much perturbed and with nerves shattered, telling his father: "I cannot do the work with Rosaline,— her beauty so marred and ugly,— her life so young and full, cut so short so tragically." The father's answer to his son is the fundamental code by which we live. "You must not think of it that way, son. We shall have her beautiful again in no time. That's the service we are trained to do for her and it is an honorable service."

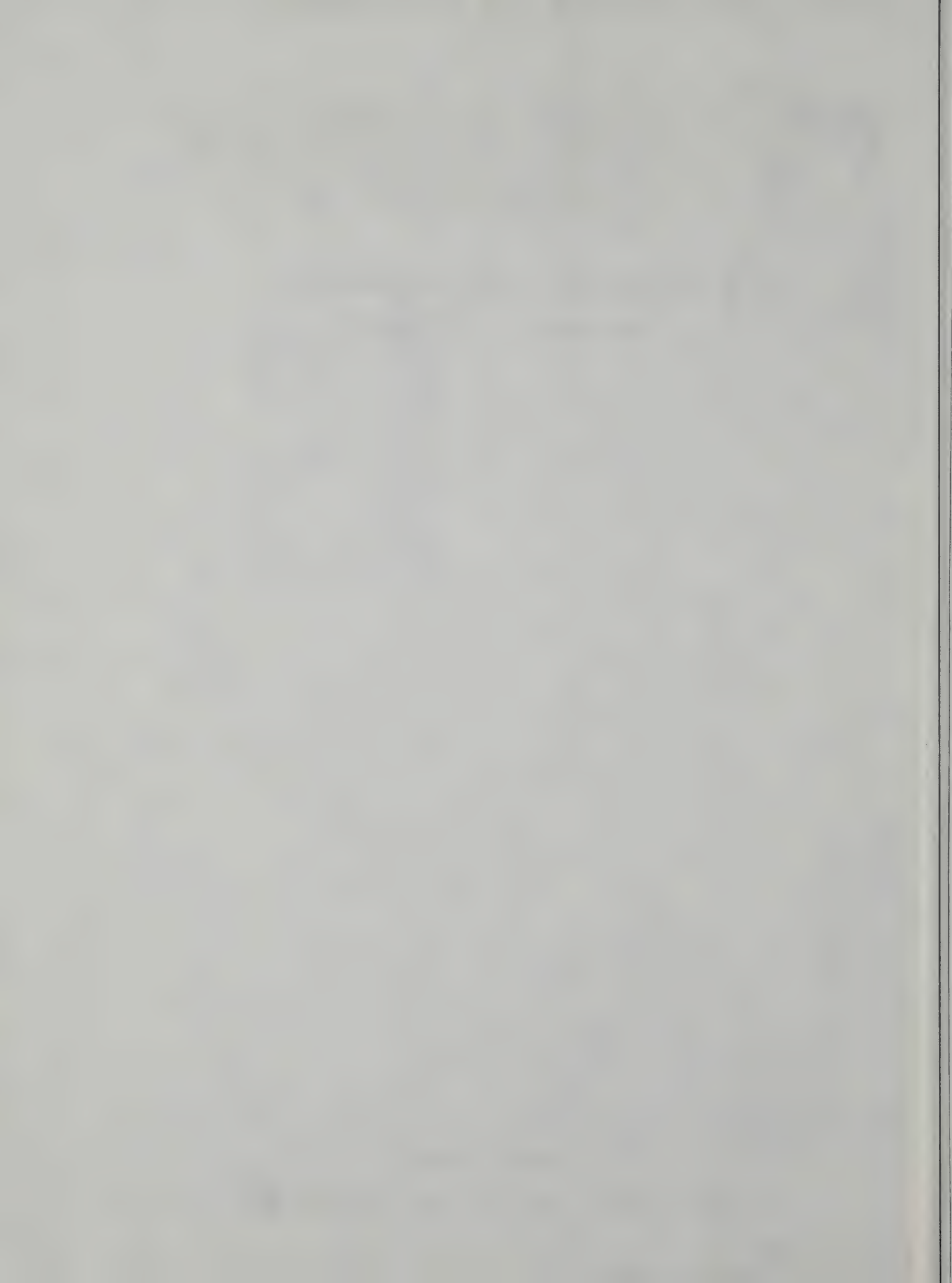






Photo by Manies, Neon, Ky.

Craft Funeral Home — Main St. — Neon, Ky.

Three objectives are borne in mind in the preparation or embalming room. First, disinfect the body thoroughly. Second, preserve the tissues. Third, restore natural appearance. The materials used bring about the three objectives. Formaldehyde is an excellent preservative and disinfectant, but has a discoloring effect upon the skin. Our modern solutions of fluids contain as many as sixteen different ingredients to combat the astringent effect of formaldehyde, to assist circulation, and to give the superficial tissues natural color and texture.

Years ago when Funeral directing was not a profession nor embalming an art, even Royalty could not have the services that the most humble can have today in America. For 59 years Louis XV of France, ruled with wars and turmoil, corruption and extravagance, and when he became ill one night in May 1774, there was much rejoicing. The dreaded disease, Small Pox, and the hatred that existed against him, left him alone to die on May 10th. No one would go near. At last his family employed two poor laborers, heavily wrapped in clothing, to roll a leaden coffin, filled with a mixture of lime, vinegar and camphorated Spirits of wine, into the Royal Palace, and transfer the body into it, and thence to the Monastery in Paris, where, at night, in secrecy and without ceremony, the body was deposited in the cold damp vault.

Today the pauper in America is accorded a better funeral than that. Prior to the 13th Century an ancient method of preservation was to boil the body in wine, and it is said that the body of Louis IX, of France was so treated for shipment from the Crusades.

The Art of modern embalming was originated in America during the Civil War. Dr. Thomas Holmes of New York City, a young ex-medical student is given the credit of being the father of modern embalming. He was a brilliant student, excelled in anatomy and chemistry, but was expelled from college for removing anatomical material from the dissecting room. He reentered college later and became a physician and surgeon but his chief interest was in finding a means of preserving the human body. He perfected a preservative fluid but never embalmed a body until the Civil War.

When assigned to Military Duty in Washington City, he began the practice of the Art of Embalming of soldiers of the Union Cause so that their bodies could be returned home. Among the first of the bodies embalmed was that of Col. Bailey, Col. Ellsworth and Maj. Buford, and all told approximately 4,000 officers and men of the Union Army.

Along with the preservative fluids has come adequate equipment and materials to advance the Funeral Profession; and last but not least a Code of Ethics has been developed and written. As the Funeral Director's duties are a sacred task, just so he is bound by the strictest Code of Ethics. This is the sum total opinion of the majority of what is ethical in relationship to the public, to fellow members of the profession, to employees and to everyone with whom those engaged in the profession come into contact.

Mr. and Mrs. Craft have dedicated their lives to their work and to that end strive every day in every way to become more competent and sympathetic.

### THE DANGER OF FORGETFULNESS

While touring the country after his recovery from the many hardships and sacrifices suffered during and after the fall of Corregidor, General Jonathan M. Wainwright is quoted as saying:

The folly of unpreparedness was the greatest of many lessons learned in Hawaii, on Bataan and Corregidor. I do not like to remember how, in Northern Luzon early in December of 1941, I was compelled to send a pitifully few untrained, poorly armed and undersupplied men against an overwhelming, well organized and well prepared invader. I do not like to remember seeing the skies over Bataan and Corregidor crowded with planes, none bearing the insignia of my country."

Of course, everyone would like to forget these unpleasantities, but General Wainwright sounded the warning:

"We are trying to forget the sorrows, the hardships and even the small discomforts of war. Therein lies our danger. We must not forget too much."

## DELICIOUS FOOD

EAT AT

# CONEY ISLAND RESTAURANT

END OF THE BRIDGE

Whitesburg, Ky.

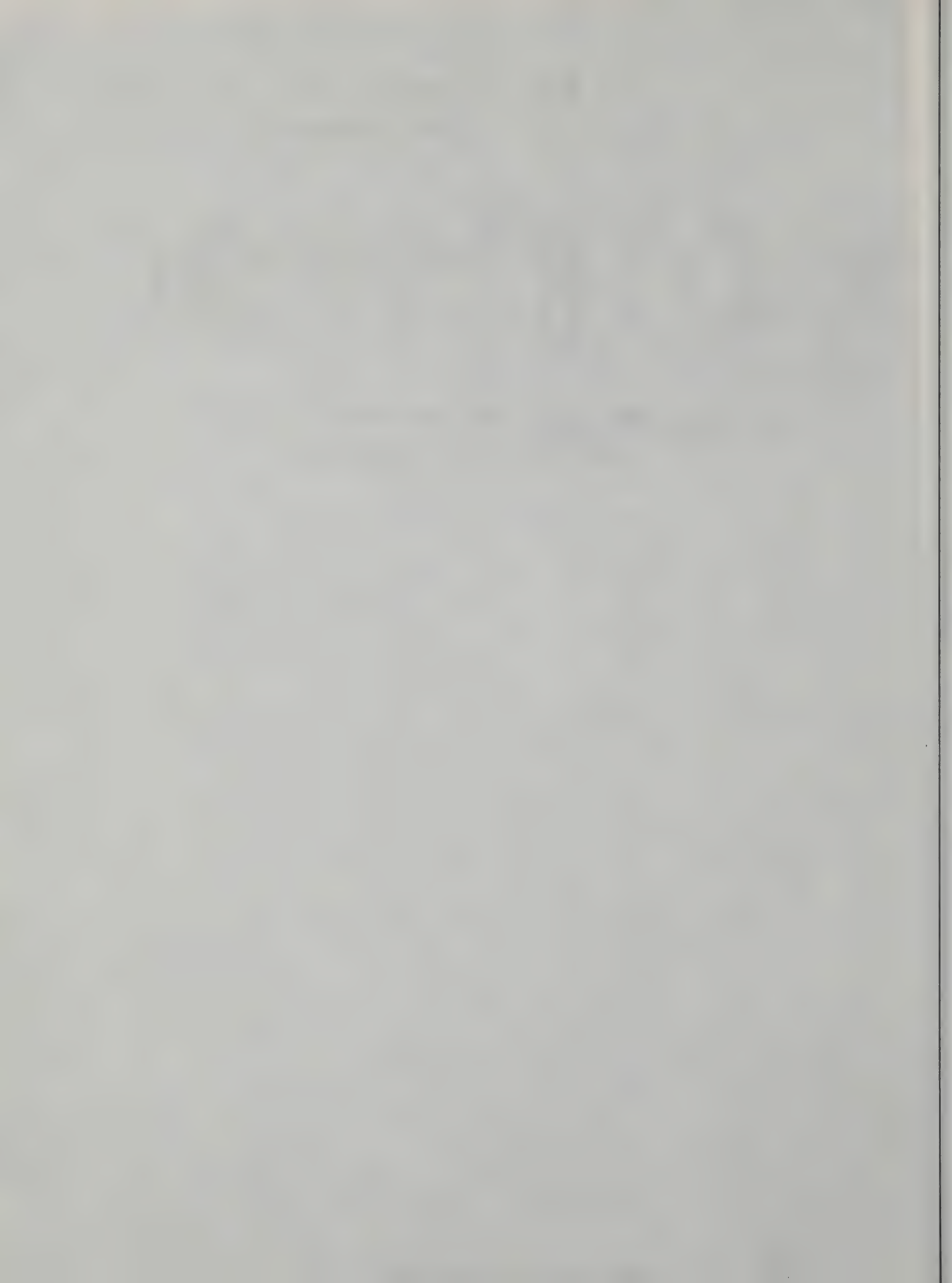
SHORT ORDERS

SIZZLING STEAKS

HOME COOKING

LADIES

GENTLEMEN







**JAMES WHITAKER**  
Chairman of School Board



**MISS MARTHA JANE POTTER**  
Superintendent of Letcher County Schools

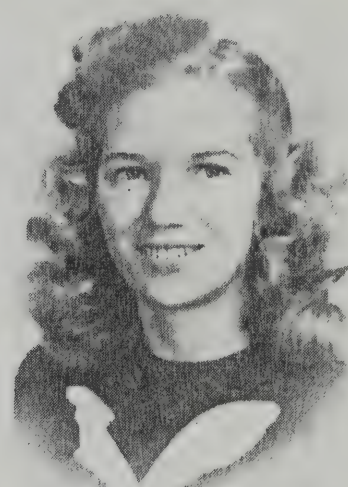
Superintendent, Secretaries  
and  
Members of Educational Board  
Letcher County  
Public Schools



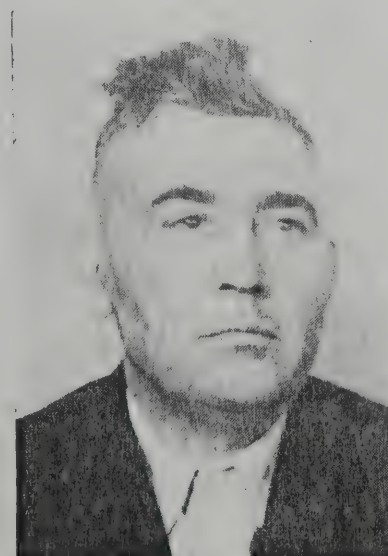
**MISS ALICE FIELDS**  
Secretary to Superintendent



**DR. E. G. SKAGGS**  
Member of School Board



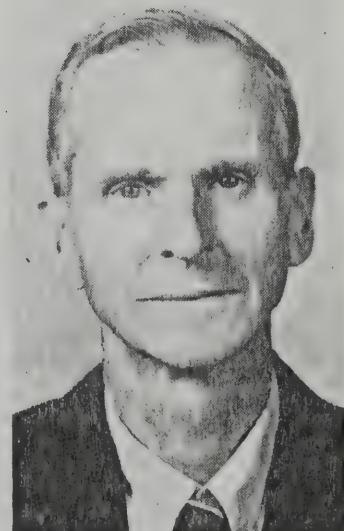
**ROSE MARY C. WHITAKER**  
Secretary to Superintendent



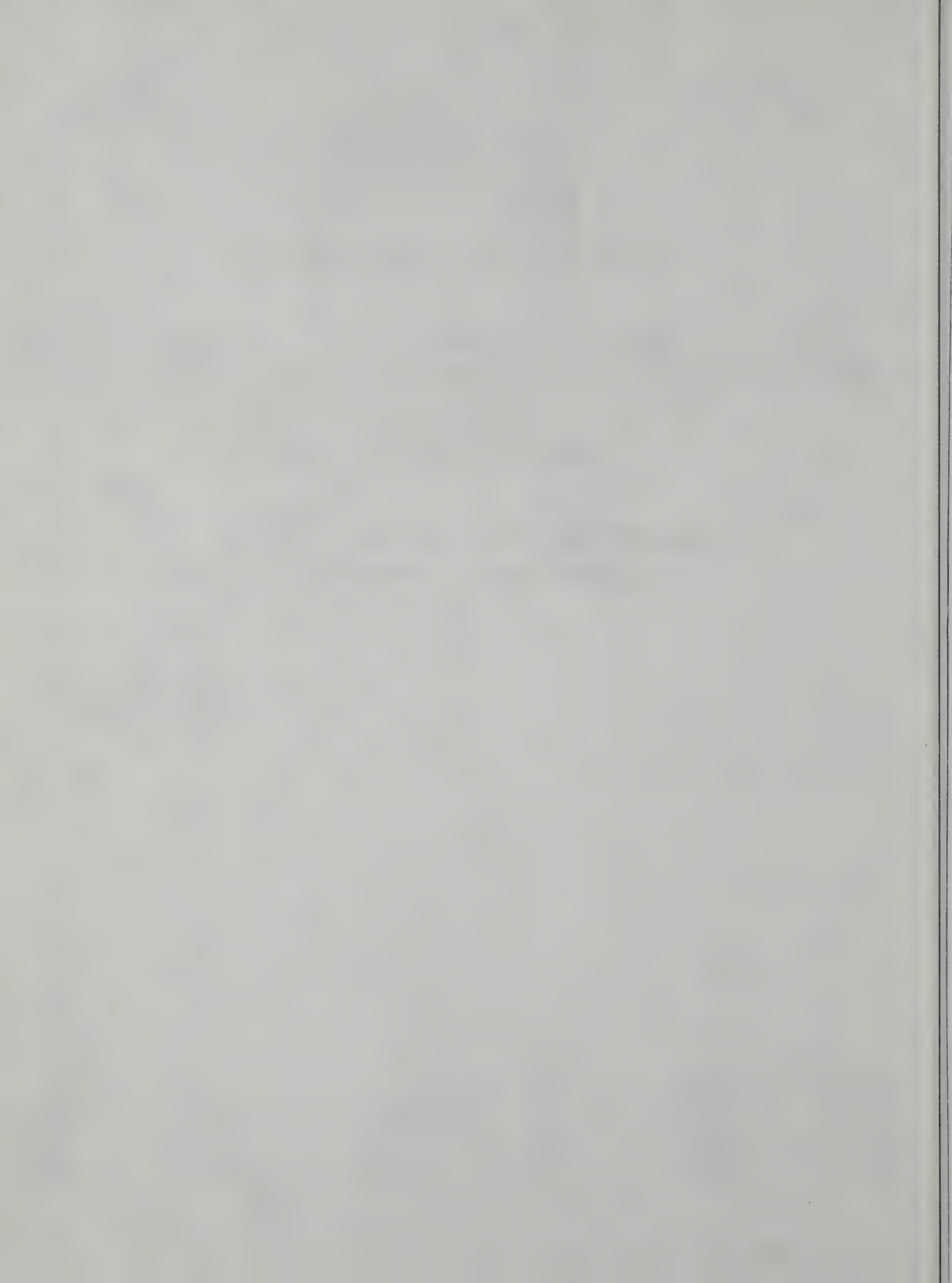
**J. R. MAGGARD**  
Member of School Board



**WILLIE CRASE**  
Member of School Board



**FRANK BLAIR**  
Member of School Board





### MARTHA JANE POTTER

Martha Jane Potter was born on Potter's Fork, the fifth child of the late W. H. Potter and Dideama Hall Potter. She obtained her elementary education in the Letcher County public schools and was graduated from Eastern State Teachers' College in 1936, receiving a B.S. degree.

Miss Potter taught in the Letcher County public schools twenty-three years and was school supervisor two years, prior to her election as superintendent of Letcher County public schools in 1942. She was re-elected in 1946.

In 1919 when the school superintendent was elected by popular vote Miss Potter was a candidate for the office and campaigned the entire county astride a horse. This was before it became fashionable for ladies to ride astride. The custom was to ride the side saddle. Many of the good people of this county did not like the idea of a young girl riding around "a straddle" of a horse and so expressed themselves by a vote against Miss Potter.

### EDUCATIONAL BOARD — LETCHER COUNTY

Willie Crase was born at Colson, Letcher Co. Sept. 23, 1879, the son of Monroe M. and Dicy Collins Crase. He married Mary Bently Jan. 4th, 1900, to whom ten children were born, seven of whom are living. One son, Ewen attended Berea College, and is a carpenter and farmer. He was appointed to fill an unexpired term in 1940 and Jan. 1, 1942 was elected to the Educational Board. He is a member of the Baptist Church, Masonic Lodge, Junior Order, and United-Mechanics.

Jesse R. Maggard, born on Cumberland, Feb. 27, 1894, the son of Samuel and Sallie Ann Brown Maggard. He married Liddie Collins Feb. 3, 1916, and to this marriage eleven children were born, nine of whom are living. He is a farmer. Appointed to fill out an unexpired term on the Educational Board Jan. 1, 1943. Elected Nov. 1944. He is a member of the Little Daniel Regular Baptist Church.

Frank Blair was born Sept. 14th, 1885 at Mayking, the son of W. L. and Martha Jane Williams Blair. He married Allie Morgan July 30, 1910, and to this marriage was born six children, five of whom are living. He attended the Public Schools completing the Eight Grade. He is a farmer and carpenter, and was elected to the Board of Education Jan. 1, 1941 and has attended every Board meeting.

James Whitaker was born at Roxana, Letcher Co., Sept. 24th, 1877, the son of George and Susan Combs Whitaker. He attended the Public Schools and prepared himself to teach but never taught. He first married Ardelia Ingram, daughter of Hiram and Matilda Fields Ingram Dec. 26, 1908. To this marriage six children were born Chelise, Venon, Vernon, Steve, Gladys and Ira. First wife died Feb. 7, 1919. He married Cannie Ison, daughter of E. L. and Rebecca Ann Holcomb Ison, August 21, 1920. To this marriage eight children were born, four boys and four girls. Evallee, Pauline, Renova, Glenn, Arlie, Kathleen, James and Thomas Reed. He is a member of Baptist Church.

Mr. Whitaker has farmed, wagoned and logged all his life, never working a day on Public Works. He was elected Trustee of his School in 1910, and as a member of the Education Board in 1918. First elected county wide and then in Educational Division. He was elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and has served as Chairman of the Educational Board since

1922. Nine of his fourteen children completed Kingdom Come High School.

DR. SKAGGS, although one of the youngest members of the Board of Education in point of service, has been exceedingly active, and has accomplished much for the good of the Public schools of the county. He is connected with various other enterprises in the county.



Photo by Cooner, Hazard, Ky.

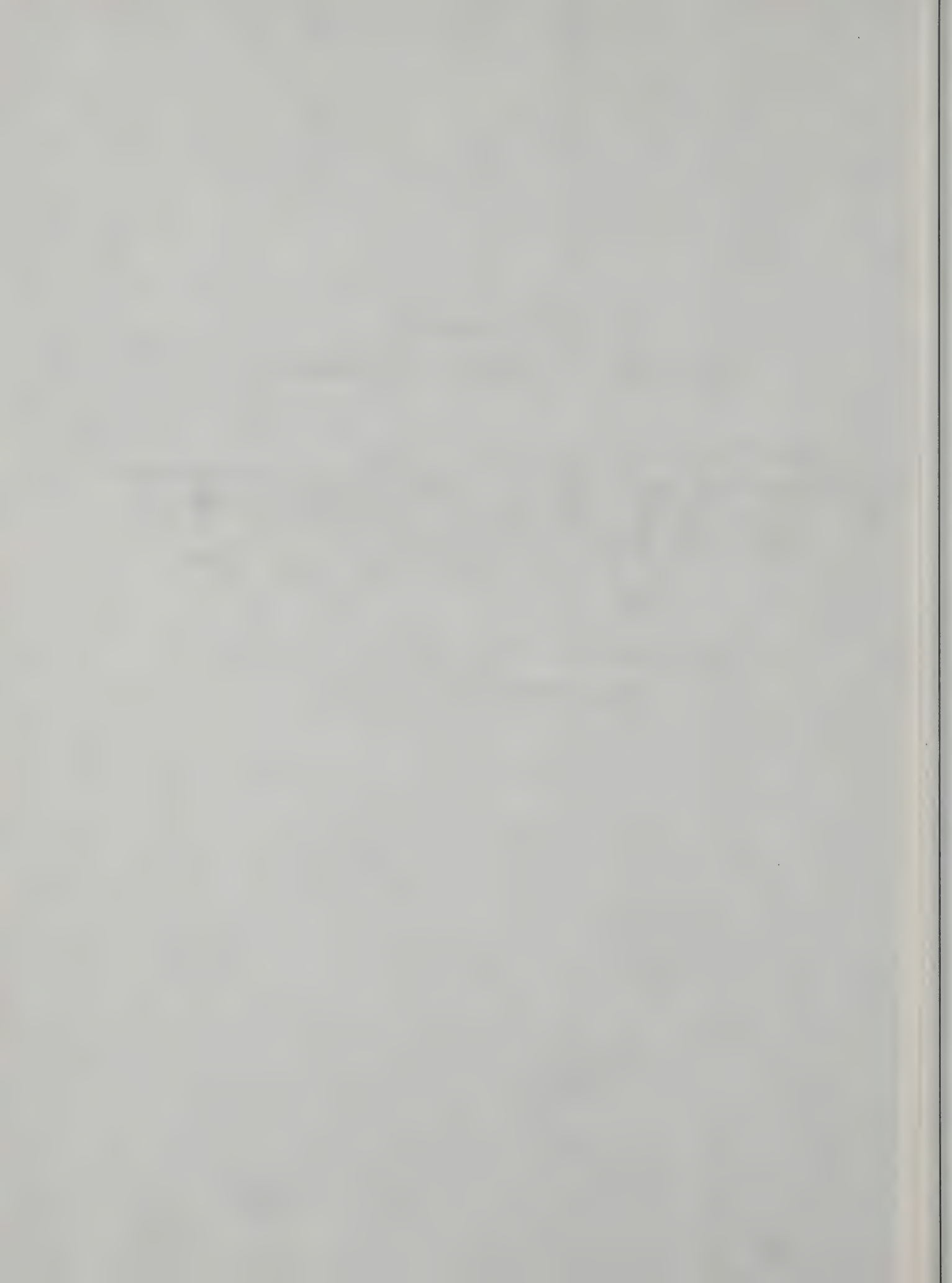
The first High School in Letcher County. Est. 1912.

### LETCHER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In the earlier days, the Public Schools of Letcher were not unlike that of other mountain counties. Some of the schoolhouses were built from nice yellow poplar logs, and without windows, while others had openings for windows which were open during the warm part of the school year, and during the winter months were covered with some kind of cloth or boards. The building was covered with board or shingle roof and on the first buildings the roof was put on with wooden pegs, or weighted down with rocks. Later with square or cut nails. Some of the very first and crudest buildings had dirt floors and were heated by building a fire in the center of the room which had a hole in the roof through which smoke escaped; and others were heated from an open fire place in which was burned wood with huge backlogs. The seats were made from split logs with the split part smoothed down with a broad ax and the flat side up while two wooden pegs inserted at each end held it up. The log seats were void of back rest or front desk.

Some teachers, without a time piece, established the time of day from certain marks, or cracks in the floor or other place where the sun shone on a clear day. Children often attended school in rather cold frosty weather without shoes or stockings. The 1850 report lists 21 school districts in the county. Only fourteen of these had mailed in any report. The report for 1855 listed 496 students enrolled. Most school were suspended for one or two weeks for "foddering" and "molassey" making, and often many of the children did not return to school after that. The distance was far, roads poor, following the creek bed, weather growing cold, and sickness prevalent, doctors scarce and swollen streams without bridges or foot logs handicapped the pupils to such extent they could not attend the school. The school term was three months. Between 1842 and 1894

(Continued to Page 20)





only four schools reported with four months term and one with five months term. The length of the school term was determined in the later years of this period by the number of students in the districts, the greater number getting a longer term.

Very often school was conducted in an abandoned farm house, and the next year probably in another half

### POTTER'S DRY GOODS STORE

It doesn't take a seer to forecast success for POTTER'S DRY GOODS STORE of Neon. Although it is one of the newest stores to be opened in Letcher County, it has established itself already in the community which it serves.

There is much more to successful merchandising than simply selling items that a customer might demand. There is such a thing as customer satisfaction and the atmosphere of personal friendship that enters largely into the building of any prosperous business. And it is just this intangible quality that one observes and feels immediately upon entering the doors of POTTER'S. It is good will . . . the most valuable asset that any man can hold in his possession.

And it is not reached by accident; neither can it be achieved by effort. It springs from the sincere desire to build friendships from business contacts. It springs from an understanding of people, from a bond of common fellowship, from the honest desire to go beyond the limits of professional courtesy to see a customer or a prospect satisfied.

Elcaney Potter, the owner of POTTER'S, is such a man. He is from one of Letcher County's oldest families, a son of the late W. Henry Potter, of Kona. On his mother side he is related to the big Hall family, being a grandson of Tom Hall, of Ermine, who was a veteran of the War Between the States.

Only a few years ago Elcaney Potter was making basketball history. One of the teams on which he played won the state championship; and for two consecutive years Elcaney Potter was elected to the All-State Basketball Team. In 1926 he was voted the most valuable player to his team in the state of Kentucky. But the medal of which he is proudest, perhaps, is the award given him for Sportsmanship during the 1925 Falls-City Tournament held in Louisville.

While very young and a student at Pikeville Junior College, Elcaney met Nanye Virginia Morgan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Morgan, Pikeville, who became his childhood sweetheart when she was only fifteen years of age. They were married Sept. 19th, 1926, and to this marriage was born one child, Elizabeth Lee. Nanye was understanding and loved people. She never tired of doing a good turn for others and for almost four years she was Co-ordinator of Letcher County Local Board Selective Service and rated second best in the entire state. Her understanding of people and their needs and of human relations, coupled with her charming nature, enabled her to succeed superbly in her work and to captivate all who knew her. Just a day or so before she was to have resigned her position with the Selective Service Board, she met with a fatal motor accident, no fault of hers, while on her way home and the Angel of Death whispered, "Come to Thine own." But to Elcaney Potter one would say, "You are lucky to have known, to have loved and to have been loved by such a charming person although for such a short time."

The same zest and spirit of fair play that won for



Photo by Cooner, Hazard, Ky.

him so many awards in athletics and that won such a lovely girl, are sure to urge him far in the mercantile business. Thus, by knowing so much about the man behind Potter's, it is easy to understand the friendly atmosphere behind this store,—the store that is building goodwill day by day in every business relationship.

### Letcher County Public Schools

a mile or more distant. The school building at Coyle Branch was destroyed by fire in 1920, and for a time school was conducted under an old barn shed until the building could be replaced.

Pupils were permitted to whisper or talk aloud, on the idea that one was not studying unless it was done aloud. Usually the teacher kept a long, keen switch at his reach, stuck through a crack in the wall or other suitable place, for purposes other than adornment. The pupils were invariably instructed by the stern father, "If you get a whipping at school, you'll get another when you get home." My, how times have changed. One hears much about child delinquency now days but such a thing was practically unheard of in those pioneer days, and much of this is attributable to the attitude of the parent. Perhaps it should better be called "Parent Delinquency."

Many children were compelled to walk a distance of as much as three to five miles to school. Occasionally those "lucky ones" rode a horse or mule to school, — as many as three riding one animal at a time. It is estimated that one mule, named Jule, owned by Mr. James Whitaker near Kingdom Come Settlement School traveled more than 30,000 miles performing such duties. The picture of this mule performing such task was shown throughout the country. Usually the creek bed, or a path through the fields and woodland, with weeds, briars or bushes hanging across it, served as roads to be traveled by the public. It is to be doubted if, in the earlier days, there was ever a boy or girl attending the rural schools who did not get wet to the knees from the morning dew or rain most every morning on the way to school.

In the Pioneer days men taught the schools but as time marched on the young women were employed as teachers so that today many refer to a school teacher as "she". The open fire places gave way to wood stoves and in later years to coal stoves. Today some of the rural schools have modern heating facilities.

The Black board was a portion of the wall painted black and erasers were made of a rag, felt hat, or

(Continued to Page 31)





## BAKER MAYTAG &amp; FURNITURE CO.



Mrs. Martha Baker and husband Dan Baker standing to her left; and sales organization of the Baker Maytag & Furniture Co., Whitaker, Kentucky. Phone ———

## A BUSINESS BUILT ON FAITH

Many persons in Letcher County recall the days when Wash Day was a day of drudgery over the wash board down below the house at a cool spring, or near a pool of water in the creek or river. Very frequently rain water was caught in tubs or barrels and used for wash-water. The laundry soap was made by storing the wood ashes in a hopper and when spring came, and soap making time was on hand, water was poured over the ashes in the hopper which had a trough at the bottom. When the water passed down through the wood ashes, it was of a deep straw color and known as lye. This was caught in a kettle or bucket placed at the lower end of the trough and when enough lye was caught to fill a large-iron kettle, meat scraps, skins, etc., were placed in the lye and all were boiled down to a jelly-like substance which was stored in a barrel, keg or large crock or churn. This supply of lye or homemade soap was supposed to last for the year.

On wash day this lye soap was smeared on the clothes which were rubbed on the wash board. Usually some person in the community who could make a wash board from a poplar or lynn board, cutting grooves in it. After rubbing the clothes well on the board, the next process was to place them on the "Battling Block" and beat them with a paddle about an inch thick and four to six inches wide. One would use the paddle or "battling stick" in one hand while keep turning the clothes on the block with the other hand. This process pressed the soapy water through and through the clothes which is the same process put in motion by the modern Maytag Washing Machine. The movement of the washer causes the soapy water to pass back and forth through the clothes loosening and washing dirt from the fabric. The next stop was to boil all the clothes that would not fade in a large kettle, then rinse the clothes and hang out to dry. All this process was laborious. The next step after the clothes were dried was to iron them with the old fashioned flat iron, heated in front of the fireplace or on the stove.

Today, all this drudgery work is made simple and pleasant with the Modern Maytag Washer and Ironer.

Washday is a day of pleasure. Simply place the clothes in the washer with warm soapy water, turn on the electricity and go on about your other work or visit with the neighbor while the machine does the work. After a few minutes the washing is done and when the clothes are dry most of the ironing can be done on the Electric Ironer with ease and pleasure. Baker Maytag & Furniture Company will furnish you with either or both.

It was during the dark days of the WPA, when many another business man was fast losing faith in the future of his country, that Dan Baker chose to start the Baker Maytag and Furniture Co., in Neon. And that faith has been more than vindicated, for the Baker Maytag and Furniture is today one of Letcher County's largest and most progressive home furnishing establishments.

Starting in 1936 as a Maytag agency, Mr. Baker has constantly added to his line. In 1937 he took on a complete line of electrical appliances and established a service department. Then came deep well pumps and associated supplies. A furniture department was opened; later came the Frigidaire products division.

One reason for the success of the Baker Maytag and Furniture Company lies in Mr. Baker's belief that no sale is complete until the customer is fully satisfied. He has adhered to this rule, and to support it he has a well trained crew of service men who stand ready to trouble shoot anywhere in the area covered by his franchises.

Dan Baker was born in Leslie County, a son of Henry Y. Baker, well known merchant and farmer of Wooten. After leaving school Mr. Baker worked for several years as a barber. He first plied this trade in Perry County, moving from one mining camp to another as opportunity beckoned. Duane . . . Hatfield-Campbell Creek . . . Fourseam Coal Corporation at Diablock, and other towns knew him before he settled in Neon and started his present business.

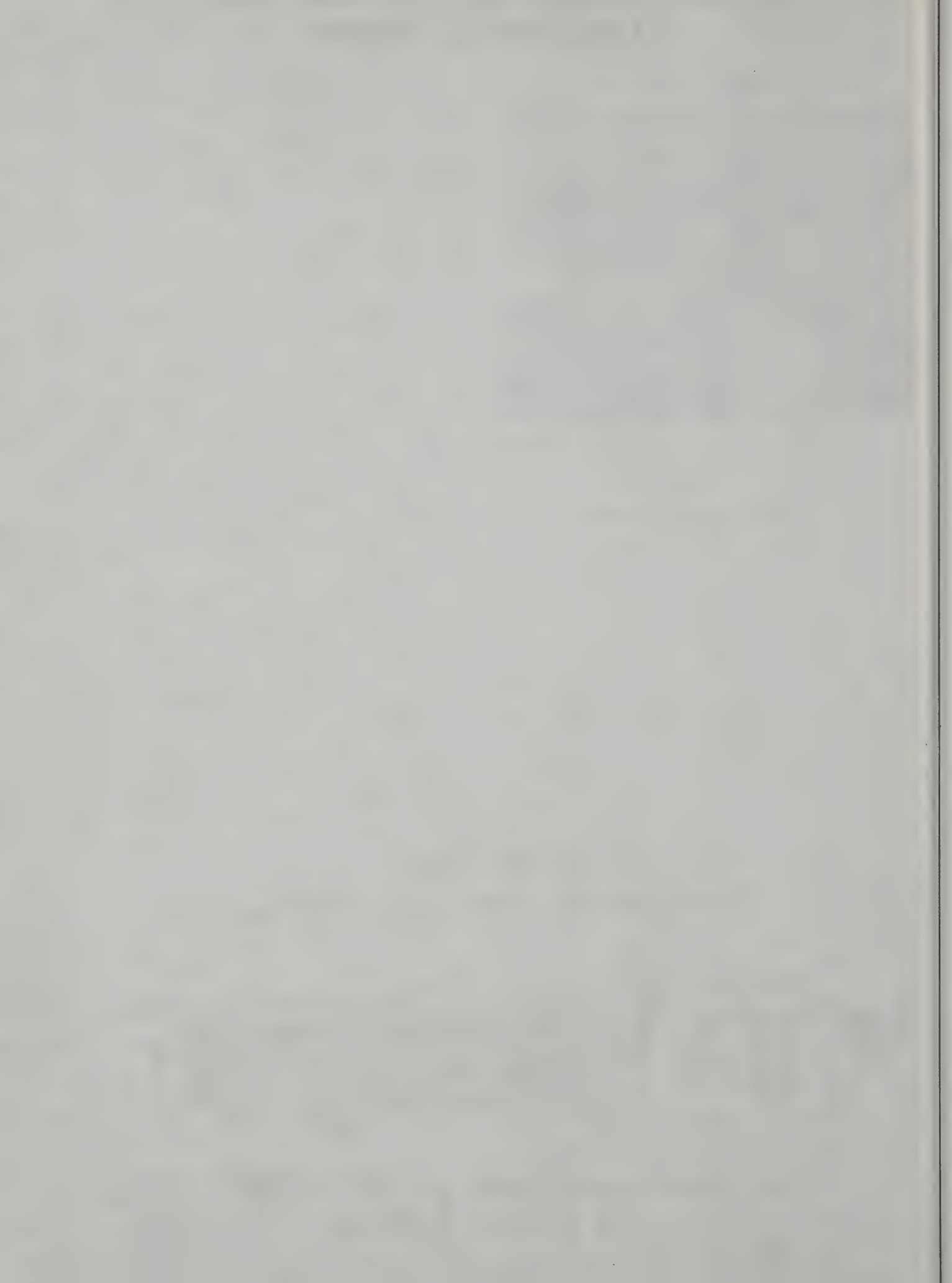
He married Martha Craft of Breathitt County, who was a daughter of the well known civil engineer and merchant, Floyd Craft. Mrs. Baker is an alumnus of Eastern State Teacher's College, and now assists Mr. Baker in the management of the Baker Maytag and Furniture Company.

They have two sons, Carl Dwight and James Ralph Baker, who are in school at Seco.

When one sees a well established and progressive business, he is prone to overlook the fact that many struggles and set-backs may have gone into the making of it. This was as true of the Baker Maytag and Furniture as of any other business. Those early days during the WPA were not easy. There were times when it seemed to the Bakers that they could not go on. But they did, again and again. And it was faith in the future that sustained them.

Now, however, the business skies have cleared. Not only is the Baker Maytag and Furniture a profitable business, but one with a future. Already, Mr. Baker is planning to erect a new home for his business, one where he will have more display and storage space.

Thus ends the story of a business built on Faith, yet the business goes on expanding and rendering a more complete service than ever before.





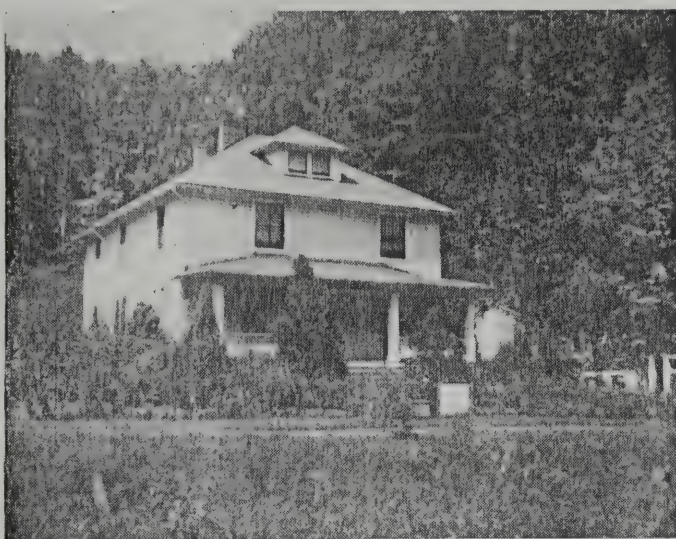


Photo by I. A. Bowles

**McCOY FUNERAL HOME — Jenkins, Ky.**

Phone 213 (Day and Night)

**EMBALMING — BOTH A SCIENCE AND ART**

Much has been said of the lost Art of Egyptian Embalming but undoubtedly the Egyptian Climatic Conditions has considerable influence upon the preserving of bodies. The Egyptian Method of Embalming was more a "Pickling Process".

Dr. Frederick Ruysch of Amsterdam (1665-1717) is reputed to be the first one who practiced successfully the arterial injection of embalming fluid. His secret of preservatives and color died with him. After Ruysch came Dr. William Hunter, famous anatomist. Bodies embalmed by Dr. Hunter and his brother, still in perfect condition, are deposited in the Royal College of Surgeons, London. Falcony of Paris, is credited with using external applications of Zinc, Sulphate, and after forty days the bodies became mummified.

It appears that R. N. Swisher, who came to Letcher from Richmond, Kentucky, first practiced modern methods of embalming in Letcher in 1912. His Funeral Home was in the Dave Hays Building and later he moved to the Fields Building at the Railroad End of the Bridge. While here there came a large tide in the river and some oil or kerosene which was stored in the basement of the building, tilted over and ran out on top of the flood water down the river. Mr. Swisher and another were standing on the bridge, when Mr. Swisher remarked, "Look at this burn", and lighted a match and threw into the river. The oil was ignited and spread into the building burning it with his Funeral Home and all.

Other early Licensed Undertakers and Embalmers of Letcher were Hartley, Berry, John Colvert, Fred King and Everett Holcomb. Mr. Swisher was the only licensed Undertaker and Embalmer in the county when Gorge W. McCoy came to Letcher in 1918 and located at Jenkins, Ky.

Mr. McCoy, the son of Pleasant P. and Sarah Ann McGlothlin McCoy, both of Scotch-Irish descent, was born at Pleasant, Martin County, Ky., April 28th, 1888. He acquired his earlier education in the Public Schools of Martin Co. and later attended the Cincinnati College of Embalming, from which he was graduated May 16th, 1913. This, the oldest school of embalming in this country, was established by Prof. J. H. Clark, in 1873. After

graduation he was employed by George A. Wiltsee & Son, undertakers in Cincinnati, O. (Established 1868.) Thereafter he was employed by Holts Bros. & Hinton, Undertakers, Memphis, Tenn., where he remained until 1918, when he came to Jenkins in December of that year, having been licensed by the Kentucky State Board of Embalming and by the Kentucky State Board of Embalmers and Undertakers during that month. At Jenkins he was employed by the Consolidation Coal Company in the Undertaking & Furniture Department, and remained with them until January 1st, 1946. Since that date he has not had any connection with the company.

Soon after his graduation from the school of Embalming, Mr. McCoy married Lula Burges, widow, daughter of Thomas and Mary Hendrix Perkins, Memphis, Tenn., August 28th, 1913. They do not have any children.

In the very earliest years of this section of Kentucky, burial of the dead was done in very simple manner, usually wrapping the corpse in cloth and interring in a crudely prepared grave. The more approved method was to make a coffin from broad yellow poplar boards, leaving the end boards to stick down an inch or so below the bottom so that they served as a rest to hold the coffin up off the floor and also to hold to in handling the coffin. Later on began the practice of lining the coffin both inside and outside, and placing handles on it and fancy or decorative screws for the lid. As the population became more dense, funeral ceremonies became more elaborate. Usually when someone died, the neighbors gathered around and "Set up" with the corpse and sang songs and offered prayer and among some Religious Sects, this ceremony continued for two or three days before burial. The burial consisted of placing the casket in the grave, the bottom of which was cut to fit the casket. Later years an outside box was made for the casket and this box fitted into the bottom of the grave and then the casket lowered into the box, then the lid nailed on the box, cross boards laid across this and the dirt filled in. Usually some preacher was present to conduct services, but in many instances funeral services or memorial services were held some years afterward.

It was in this very community where the Wrights, the Mullins and "Red Fox" made history; that was covered with vast forest and underlaid with fine coal ranging up to nine feet thick at the time when Consolidation Coal Company first began work and to build Jenkins and surrounding communities, that Mr. McCoy came in 1918 and since that time has conducted a Funeral Home. When he first came here, the roads were poor and could be traversed only with horse drawn hearse. Many times before the advent of good roads, Mr. McCoy, with proper equipment and supplies has gone forth to McRoberts or other points and embalmed bodies in the home of the deceased or a friend, working all night, often by lamplight and without the modern convenience of running water, preparing the body for shipment on the early morning train. On many occasions he has embalmed the body and left it for friends to dress and place into the casket and bury. In the earlier days the Funeral Director dressed his own caskets by putting on the handles, lining, etc.

**Some Unusual Experiences**

Mr. McCoy buried four members of the same family in one grave. They were the victims of a car wreck.







First hearse used by Mr. McCoy of the McCoy Funeral Home, Jenkins, Ky.

On his first trip out in this hearse, Mr. McCoy asked the driver, "Do you know 'Bad' John Wright?" The driver answered, "I ought to. He's my father." Mr. McCoy offered an apology. The driver said "You needn't apologize. Everybody calls him 'Bad' John."

He has buried two bodies in the same grave. A little girl was buried and later her parents moved away and came back for the body of their little girl and after her body was disinterred another corpse was buried in the same grave.

The body of John Willis, Engineer for the power company was buried in a metal casket at Mayking and subsequently when a mausoleum with nine crypts was prepared, the corpse was disinterred and placed inside the mausoleum.

One corpse was shipped away to be cremated and subsequently the ashes were returned in an Urn to the Funeral Home and thereafter shipped to Cincinnati where it was placed in a mausoleum.

He buried a colored woman weighing 390 pounds. It was necessary to use a double-extra casket. This was too large to get through the door of the home or church.

Since he came to Letcher County, Mr. McCoy has embalmed more than 2,075 bodies. He is the oldest Funeral Director and Embalmer in point of service in the county. With the advent of good roads his horse drawn hearse has been replaced with a modern motor hearse and he can bring the corpse to his well planned Funeral Home in Jenkins for preparation for burial. He maintains the MCCOY FUNERAL HOME with modern equipment and appliances and has always practiced his profession in a highly dignified and sympathetic manner. He is profoundly conscience of the Dignity and Ethics of his profession and uses all effort to conduct every Funeral on the High Plane which the traditions of his profession have established.

#### Firsts in Kentucky

(Continued from Page 11)

1806—Duel between Gen. Andrew Jackson and Charles Dickinson on Red River in Logan County. Dickinson said to be the best shot in the country was killed.

1806—The first surgical operation of great note was about 1806. Dr. Brashear of Bardstown took off

at the hip joint the thigh of a mulatto boy. The patient recovered and lived for many years.

1806—The first female Academy in Kentucky or the West, was established at Paris, by Rev. John Lyle; and had from 150 to 300 pupils.

1808—Duel between Henry Clay and Humphrey Marshall Jan. 19.

1808—Jefferson Davis was born Jan. 3, in Christian Co. (now Todd Co.).

Abraham Lincoln born near Hodgenville, Ky. (Feb. 12, 1812)

All state and judicial officers and attorneys required to take oath against dueling.

1809—"Dr. Ephriam McDowell performed the world's first successful ovariectomy on Jane Todd Crawford, Christmas day without anaesthesia."

(Mrs. Crawford rode 60 miles over a rough trail from Greensburg to Danville to submit to an operation for what was thought to be a tumor. This blazed the way for abdominal surgery, opening a new era in the practice of medicine.)

1810—The first scalp law passed in Ky. was on Jan. 26, allowing pay for wolf scalps only, \$1.00 per head.

1811—The first night watchman on duty in a town, was in Lexington. He, "in a shrill, unearthly tone, called out the time of night and the weather."

1812—The first steam mill was in Lexington.

1812—The first Great Treaty of Peace with a foreign Government in which a Kentuckian (Henry Clay) took an active part, was concluded Dec. 14th, with Great Britain at Ghent, Belgium. The war of 1812 closed.

1813—Dec. 8. At the request of President Madison, the Legislature sets apart rooms in the penitentiary for confining British prisoners. Retaliation for the close confinement by the enemy of American Prisoners.

1815—Certain county courts authorized to appropriate seminary lands. Lottery acts passed to raise funds to build churches, Masonic Hall.

Penalty of \$100 upon any court or justice of the peace permitting any lawyer from Indiana Territory to practice before him and a like penalty of \$200 upon any such lawyer so practicing;—Until Indiana repeals her law punishing Kentucky lawyers for practicing there.

1817—Loaned Dr. Munsell \$6,000 to complete his map of Kentucky.

1820—\$5,000—appropriated by the state to buy books and apparatus for the medical dept. of Transylvania University. 147 copies of Munsell's large map of Kentucky purchased by the state.

All fines and forfeitures to be paid over to the treasurers of county seminaries, to promote education.

1821—Imprisonment for debt abolished in Kentucky.

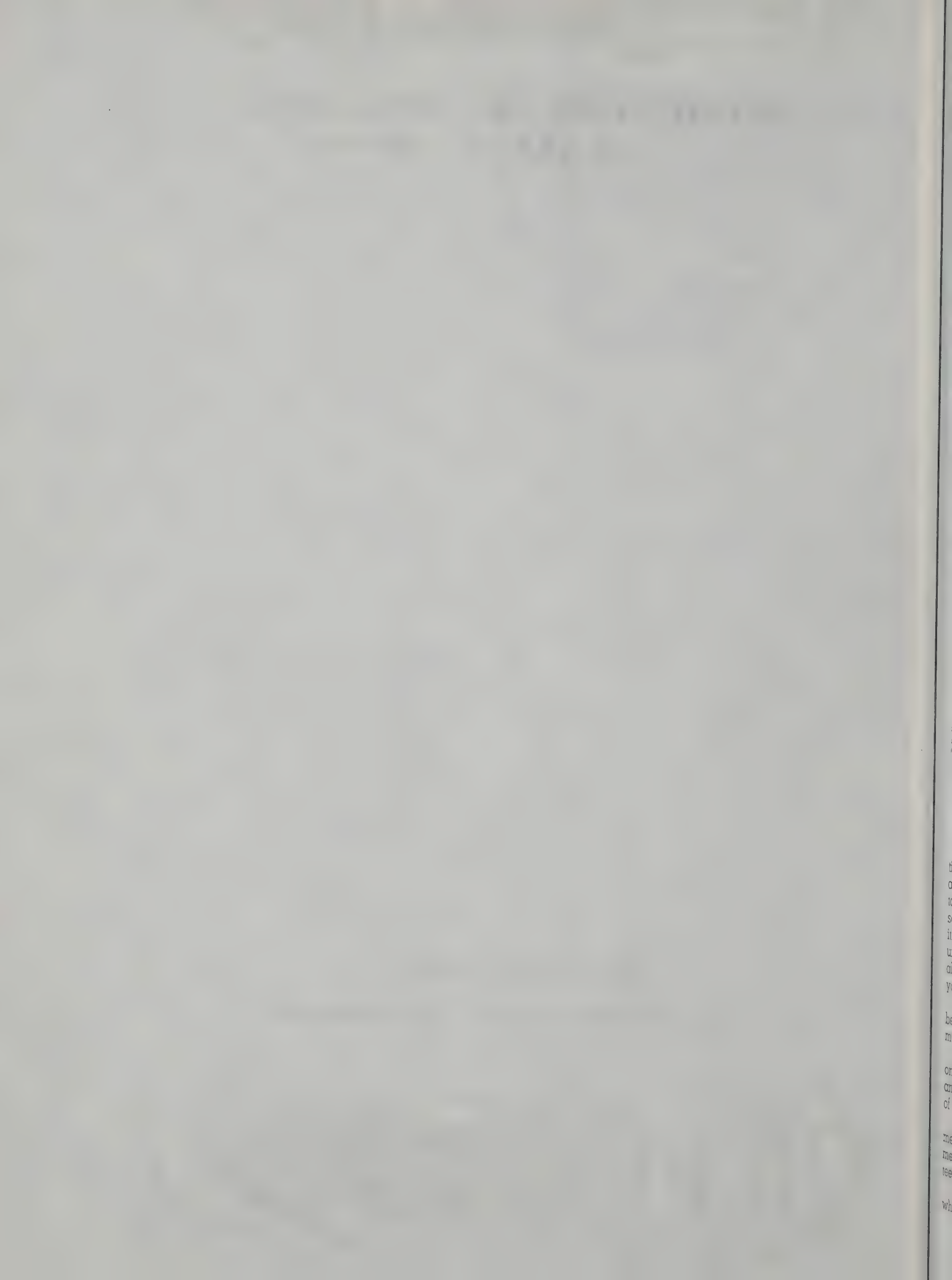
County courts authorized to purchase land and erect "poor houses".

Dec. 27. 53 of Dr. Munsell's large map of Ky. purchased and the balance due for loan to aid in its publication cancelled.

1821—The first educational appropriation in the Ky. Legislature of a general character, Dec. 18.

1824—Dec. Transylvania Univ. had 320 students of which 18 were law and 184 medical.

(Continued on Page 24, Col. 2)

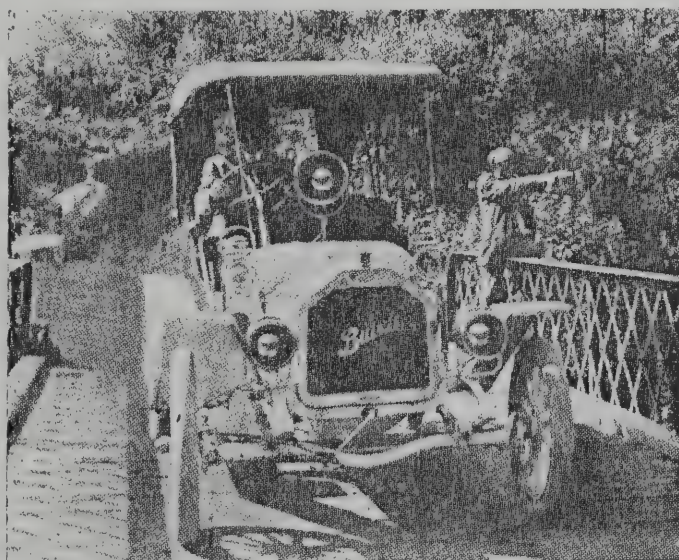




### KYVA MOTOR CO. — WHITESBURG, Ky.

Wilson S. Rennaker, came to Letcher Co. from Franklin Co. and organized the KyVa Motor Company in 1922. At that time there were six miles of graded road between Ermine and Sandlick. No modern highways or bridges. Throughout the entire county, the creek beds and old narrow dirt roads were the lanes of travel. The company was incorporated in 1923 with Mr. Rennaker, better known as Wilson, as the main spring of the enterprise. He had a keen vision into the future of Letcher County's Economic growth and how well he planned for the future and how unceasingly he toiled, is reflected in the growth and development of his company.

He was born in Harrison Co. and in 1921 was married to Augusta Ammerman and to this union was born a daughter, Lena Lee. Mrs. Rennaker joined her husband in making this business a success. Their daughter is an employee of the business. Mr. Rennaker's father, Leroy Rennaker, is faithful in his services to the organization.



The first Buick ever built — 1898. In appearance and performance it is far behind the modern Buick.

The KyVa Motor Co. is dealer for Buick and Pontiac Automobiles and International Trucks. If its beauty and performance you desire in a car, then do not fail to visit KyVa Motor Company, Whitesburg, Ky., and see the many superb features of each of these cars. If its power and wear you want in a truck, do not stop until you get the best,—INTERNATIONAL. The best is always the cheapest. Try an International Truck and you will be convinced by its unbelievable performance.

The new Buick automobile is second to none in beauty and performance and fulfills all the requirements of the most discriminating persons.

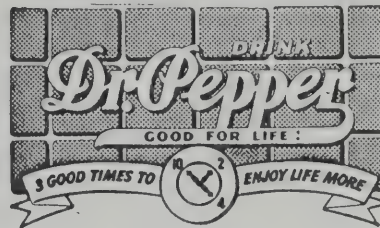
The Pontiac is unequalled in its price range. Anyone who purchases a New Pontiac gets more for the amount paid, than can be had in any other automobile of similar — or even greater price.

The KyVa Motor Co. is equipped to do all kinds of mechanical repairing on your car or truck. Experienced mechanics employed and satisfactory service guaranteed.

The success of this business reflects again what one who has had a vision and purpose in life, can do by

persistence, honesty and the desire to make every customer a friend and booster. Call KyVa Motor Co. Telephones 99 and 76.

### DR. PEPPER BOTTLING CO.



— Phone 8 —

Whitesburg

Harlan

### Firsts in Kentucky

(Continued from Page 23)

- 1824—Nov. 4 Capitol at Frankfort destroyed by fire. Damage \$40,000. The House of Representatives met in the Meeting House and Senate in the Seminary, both on the Public Square. While still being held by the Representatives and within less than a year the meeting house was burned.
- 1824—Asiatic Cholera was prevalent during the years 1833-'49-'50-'65.  
May 1st, the Eastern State Hospital was founded at Lexington, Ky.
- 1826-27—The first locomotive in the world was built at Lexington in the winter of 1826-27 by Thomas H. Barlowe.
- 1830—Surveys for the railroad from Lexington to Louisville show that the streets of Frankfort are 430 feet lower than Lexington and about 200 feet of this occurring within 2 miles of Lexington.
- 1831—The first railroad in the West, and the second in the United States, was that from Lexington to Frankfort, begun and the corner stone laid in Lexington October 21, but not finished through to Frankfort until December 1835.
- 1832—The first lodge of Odd-Fellowship was Boone Lodge No. 1 at Louisville, formed December.
- 1832—From Jan. 1, to Dec. 31, 453 steamboats and 179 flat and keel boats passed through the Louisville and Portland Canal, paying \$25,766 tolls.
- 1837—The first balloon ascension was by Richard Clayton, July 31, 1837, from Louisville, who traveled 100 miles.
- 1837—July 11—Grand meteoric explosion at 2:45 P.M. seen and heard at Georgetown and for miles around described as a "great white ball, whiter than snow, very bright, nearly as big as the sun, flying almost as swiftly as lightning from where the sun was shining brightly, towards the east; the noise was terrible, like a heavy cannon at a great distance.
- 1838—The first Supt. of Public Instructions appointed was Rev. Joseph J. Bullock, Feb. 28.
- 1840—The first remarkable crops of corn grown in Ky. were in 1840. 198½ bu., 195 bu., 158 2/9 bu., 120 bu., 110 bu. per single acre.
- 1840—The first gas works were erected in Louisville.

(Continued on Page 25, Col. 2)







Photo by Cooner, Hazard, Ky.

### KERMIT'S SUPERETTE MARKET Whitesburg — Phone 134

#### A SUPER SUPERETTE

"Laugh and the world laughs with you."

That old truth might be used to sum up a large part of the very real success of the man behind KERMIT'S SUPERETTE MARKET. For the chances are ten to one that the moment you step through the door of Kermit Combs' grocery in Whitesburg you will be struck by his booming laugh. It is good to hear . . . and it is equally good business.

There is, of course, much more to the success of KERMIT'S SUPERETTE MARKET than the good will created by the proprietor's warm friendliness. There is the story of a young man who worked hard at whatever task he found assigned to him. The story of a man who taught, worked in a coal company commissary, traveled for a wholesale supply house . . . and the story of a man who had the courage to start out on his own, without a backlog, with only the spirit of willingness to try and the desire to make good.

And there is, above all, the story of a man who started on absolutely nothing but a reputation for honesty and twenty dollars of borrowed capital. Today that store is his, —lock-stock and barrel, all paid for and doing one of the best jobs of merchandising in Letcher County.

Pushing through his door hour after hour and day after day are people from all ends of Letcher. Most of them come again and again, because they have learned that they can get what they want at Kermit's . . . and because they like to trade there. They enjoy the spirit of good fellowship found at his Market.

Kermit Combs is the son of one of Letcher County's oldest school teachers, Shade Combs, of the Blackey section. His father has taught for over forty-four years in the county school system. His mother was Millie Ison before her marriage.

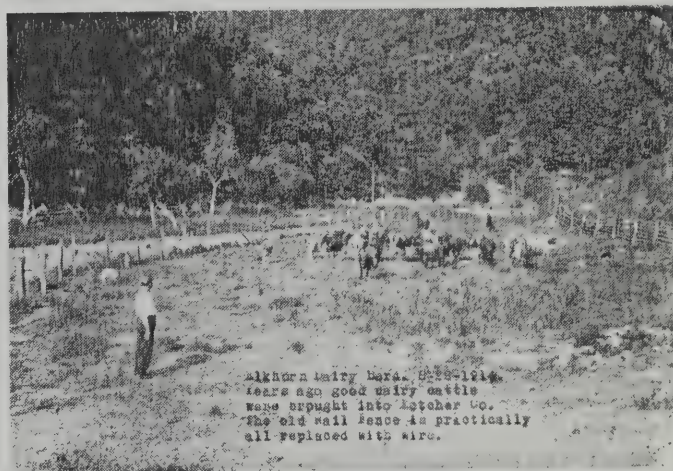
Upon completing high school at the old Stuart Robinson in Blackey, Kermit Combs earned his teacher's certificate at Eastern State Teacher's College. He taught for four years in the Letcher County schools before turning to other pursuits.

He married the former Elizabeth Nal of Norton, Virginia, and has one child, Jacqueline, age seventeen.

Listen! If you haven't already been buying your groceries, fresh vegetables and meats at Kermit's Superette Market, call it now—Phone 134.

#### Firsts in Kentucky

- 1844—The first Thanksgiving day appointed in Ky. was Sept. 26, by Gov. Robert P. Letcher.
- 1845—Sept. 13. Reinterment of the remains of Daniel Boone and his wife in the state cemetery at Frankfort.
- 1845—Sept. 22. Suicide at Richmond by blowing out his brains with a pistol, of John White, Judge of the 19th. Judicial District and recently a speaker of the lower house of Congress and a member thereof for ten years.
- 1847—Jan. 20. Capt. Cassius M. Clay, and others surrounded by an overwhelming force of Mexican cavalry and captured and taken to Mexico City and imprisoned.
- 1850—L & N RR chartered Mch. 5.  
"DAN CARVER BEARD" born. A plaque on his old home at Covington, Ky. state: "Here lived, in his boyhood the founder of the Boy Scouts of America."
- 1852—Act for registration of births, deaths & marriages in Ky. Jan. 9.
- 1852—Henry Clay died in Washington June 29. Buried at Lexington July 10.
- 1853—Stephen Foster published his immortal song, "My Old Kentucky Home."



- 1853—Cotswold Sheep with fleece weighing from 15 to 18 lbs. imported into Bourbon County.

Several large jacks and jennets, of very large size and superior quality, imported direct from Spain.

50 head of Durham cattle imported from a famous farm in England to Bourbon, Fayette and Clark counties.

A mammoth ox, over 19 hands high and weighing over 5,000 pounds exhibited in the Lexington Fair Grounds, Sept. 22.

- 1854—March 1st. Price of vacant land belonging to the state in the counties of Greenup, Lawrence, Carter, Pike, Knox, Laurel, Whitley, Rockcastle, Perry, Letcher, Owsley, Breathitt, Clay, Harlan, Morgan, and Pulaski reduced to 2½ cents per acre.

In the legislature of California are 12 natives of Kentucky.

- 1857—Benjamin Mills, one of the South's most noted gunmakers, made Mills target pistols at Harrodsburg (1857-80) Kit Carson made visit to that

(Continued on Page 30)

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# DAWAHARE'S DEPARTMENT STORES

NEON - WHITESBURG - PIKEVILLE - HAZARD - CUMBERLAND



Pikeville Store. Mr. S. F. Dawahare standing in the center at rear.

## IN THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

Mr. S. F. Dawahare, the founder of Dawahare Department Stores, with locations in Pikeville, Whitesburg, Neon, Cumberland, and Hazard, Kentucky, first came to Letcher County, in 1912 at a time when the coal fields were first being developed. To get to Jenkins, Ky., in that somewhat primitive time, he walked from Harlan town, a feat indicative of his character.

Many years ago when Mr. Dawahare first landed in New York City, he had only \$5.00, a kindly heart, and a grim determination to succeed. He had a new language to learn and friends to make. Soon he went down in Old Mexico but one year there together with his experience with Poncho Villa was sufficient to turn his thoughts and efforts to the United States again. He went back to New York for a time and then to the coal fields of Virginia, thence to Harlan Co., Ky.

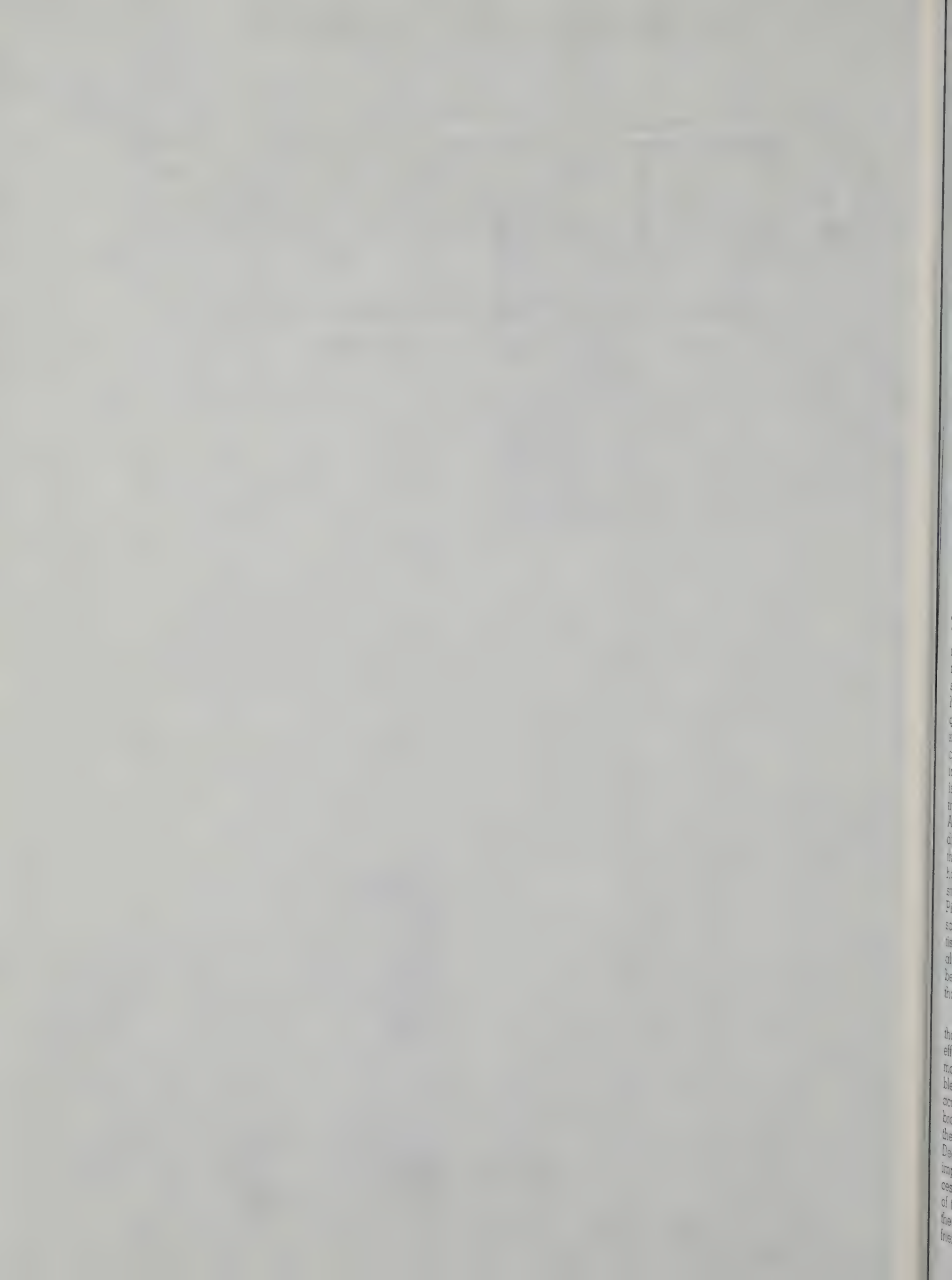
Mr. Dawahare left Harlan walking over a very rough dirt road, with a small bundle of personal belongings many years ago for Jenkins, Kentucky, then but little known, even in its own immediate community. That was around 1911 when Jenkins was in the making. He inquired all along the way just what road he should take to get over to Jenkins, and most always was met with the answer that he wanted to get to Whitesburg, and would proceed to tell him the way to get to that county seat. He was persistent in his assertion and inquiry that he wanted to go to Jenkins. He spent the night with one good native who did everything possible to make his night pleasant, furnishing him with the best of food and feather bed on a corded bedstead, and the next morning insisted that Mr. Dawahare ride his horse over to a certain place in Letcher County and there spend the night and leave the horse and that he would be welcomed and treated most Royally, and went on to say that his brother lived there. This Mr. Dawahare did and was accorded every

courtesy and act of friendship that only a Native Kentucky Mountaineer could offer. He proceeded on from this stop to Jenkins and found it merely a wilderness giving away to Civilization and Arts and Crafts of man. New dirt was torn up making way for new buildings and what was to become very soon the most active place in the County. Years prior to this time, great coal magnates and Engineers of note had planted the seed and laid the foundation for the city which someday was to "Mushroom" in only a few months. Steam boilers were popping off, saws buzzing, hammers banging, and great loads of building materials, machinery and equipment drawn across Pound Gap from Virginia with many teams of cattle, horses and mules to this wilderness which was developing so rapidly into a new industry.

It was here that Mr. Dawahare in a small way began his merchandising as a Pack Peddler, and very soon rented a room from which other Pack Peddlers worked out under his direction. He toiled long hours in this Virgin Territory preparing day by day his work ahead. Getting merchandise across into this new territory was not a small job. It must be brought in from Virginia or from Pikeville by way of packhorse or wagon. The railroad had not come into the community at that time. He plodded along his weary and arduous way up the mountain sides, and down again across the unbridged streams and up and down the muddy unimproved paths along the creek's edge selling his wares from house to house. His business prospered and finally in 1918 he moved to Neon where he opened business in a small boxed building. His business continued to grow and his building was enlarged. The lean years that came along in 1929 and following did not have any mercy for Mr. Dawahare. He was struck hard but never faltered and never lost faith in the people of the community which he had adopted. He worked all the harder. By this time he had a large family



Pikeville Store — Most Modern in Eastern Ky.





and on one occasion when some friend asked him, "Mr. Dawahare how do you expect to feed and clothe such a large family?" He remarked, "God has blessed me with them and He will help me to provide for them."

For several years he carried on a general business at East Jenkins, Ky., removing to Neon, Ky. in 1918, at a time when the population of this rapidly building mountain city was only 300 and law and order were practically unknown. Growing with the town, his business prospered, and he made many contributions to the growth of the community in both a civic and material way. The present Dawahare store at Neon is widely known and has been the headquarters of many discriminating buyers for years.

During the depression, the business, strange to say, actually prospered, and he emerged financially strong enough to purchase the Dawahare location in Whitesburg with which so many people of Eastern Kentucky are familiar. The Whitesburg store, catering to all classes of discriminating buyers who have found that America's leading brands of wearing apparel are always in stock at prices they can pay, is centrally located and well arranged for easy shopping.

During the year 1946, Dawahares opened the finest store in Eastern Kentucky, at Pikeville. This store plan was laid out by one of the most modern planning engineers and has in it the very best fixtures that money can buy; and the lighting was planned and installed by competent lighting and electrical engineers. From the very first day of business this store has gone far beyond all expectations in volume of business. The next store opened was in Hazard during the summer of 1947. This, like the Pikeville Store has the most modern store fixtures and furniture and specially designed lighting recommended by the most modern lighting engineers. Both the stores have beautiful solid glass fronts and doors and take the lead in merchandising. Dawahares purchased a half interest in the lot and basement and first floor of the Masonic Building in Hazard and renovated it from start to finish, making it the most beautiful store room in Perry County and this coupled with the excellent location and Nationally Advertised line of Merchandise answers the dreams of discriminating purchasers. The Hazard Store is under the able management of William C. Dawahare who has employed a corps of excellent clerks. These two stores have set a lively pace for the other stores of Pikeville and Hazard. These stores serve many thousands of people from their stock of Nationally Advertised Merchandise at price range within the reach of all. The last of the Dawahare store is located at Cumberland, Harlan County, and is the leading store in that thriving city.

Mr. Dawahare, the father of eleven children, says that he owes much of his success to the energy and effort which they have put into the business. As store managers, buyers, clerks, they have been of incalculable value in the upbuilding of the firm, and their wide acquaintanceship in this area has, through the years, brought many new customers. Actively engaged in the business are William S., Woodrow, Harding and Dee, while other sons and daughters are playing an important role in making these stores a continued success. It does not take a stranger long, after entering one of the stores, to sense one of the determining factors of the remarkable growth of the Dawahare stores — the friendly and courteous atmosphere that prevails.

## S. F. DAWAHARE

Mr. S. F. Dawahare is a member of various Fraternal and Civic Organizations and very active in the welfare and progress of each. He is a regular attendant of services of the Methodist Church and active in its support. He together with his children are Civic Minded, never missing an opportunity to join in financially or otherwise to further any cause intended to promote a Civic benefit. When the Cancer Drive comes on, or the Mile o' Dimes program is in progress or Salvation Army Leaders come around, he always takes the lead and contributes liberally in funds and effort. He never fails to aid the needy and help in whatever way he can to make life a little more cheery for those who are less fortunate. He is sympathetic and understanding of people and has the very unusual acumen to foresee the wants of the buying public and purchase the right kind and quality of merchandise at the proper time and thus make and retain satisfied customers.



Pikeville Store. Ideal Store for The Discriminating Shopper

For merchandise of quality, reasonably priced, always go to Dawahares. These stores offer liberal credit terms, or lay away plan. The clerks are painstaking, courteous and friendly. Liberal adjustments are made. Once you have visited Dawahares Stores you will return for other purchases and will tell your friends and bring them with you.

Mr. Dawahare through the years has had the most complete cooperation with his clerks. Each year he gives his clerks, their wives, husbands or friends of each store a union banquet of all the stores. Here vital questions of interest that concern all the stores are discussed, representatives from various wholesale houses attend these banquets as guests and deliver inspiring talks. These meetings go a long way in cementing friendships throughout the Dawahare Organization and brings about a better feeling and relation, among the clerks and management of the various stores.

Mr. S. F. Dawahare, the Grand Old Man of the Dawahare Stores, believes in the words of Bishop Trauch when he said, "For we must share if we would keep that blessing from above; ceasing to give we cease to have, such is the law of love."

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Photo by Cooner, Hazard, Ky.

Home of the Combs Motor Co.

### THE SAGA OF A MAN

It was exactly 12:55 p.m. in Seattle Washington. Two hundred thousand cheering people lined the streets, every eye focused on one thing . . . a tiny, topless 1909 Model-T Ford.

Its once shiny brass radiator was mud spattered, and its tin body was a battered wreck . . . but it was making history. For this 1909 Model-T Ford had just won the first transcontinental automobile race in history.

This victory was all the more astonishing because no one thought the midget auto had even a ghost of a chance against the heavier, more expensive power models that had entered the race in New York . . . no one? Only one—Henry Ford.

Twenty-two days and fifty-five minutes was the record, over mountain trails and across swollen streams . . . an incredible record, indeed. Incredible in that it reached Seattle at all.

But sturdiness is one thing that Henry Ford has ever built into his cars. He built them at first for long wear and for the common man who could not afford to change model yearly. He built them out of the sturdiness of his own character, incorporating into them the greatness that has lifted him to the top of his profession.

It is said that Henry Ford worked diligently and persistently on his first Ford: that when he built it and it appeared to be ready for a trial run, he was unable to get it out of his shop without first removing part of the side wall, enlarging the door. When this was done he drove the car around the city block a few times and decided to drive out in the country to his father's farm.

When his father saw young Ford and the horseless carriage, he was more or less embarrassed that his son would fool his time away with such a contraption, and outwardly showed his displeasure. This in no way discouraged son Henry. He had a vision, — an idea in mind and the same determination and courage that had enabled him to build his first Ford, although crude, spurred him on to build a better and finer car.

Like others who conceive revolutionary ideas, young Ford met with much discouragement and many

obstacles. When his finances were exhausted and it appeared he could not go further, he pleaded with his banker to loan him another Five Hundred Dollars; that he could get along with that.

For then it was he could build thirty cars in one year and sell them, — emphasizing the word, "Sell". Having put over to his banker the idea that he could sell his cars young Ford was granted an additional loan as requested.

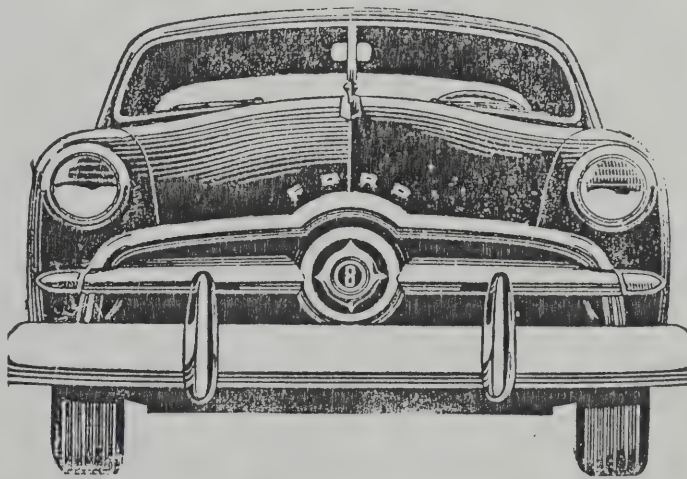
But Henry Ford, the young Michigan farm boy who first conceived the idea of building cars for the common man, built much more than automobiles . . . he strove to build men. Men who would build into his product the same strength that he strove to instill in them.

He said of his thousands of employees, "If I can make men of my people, my business will take care of itself. Everything I do to help them ultimately benefits me. The more money I spend on them, the more enthusiasm they will have for my interests, and the more money they will make for themselves and me."

Nor was this philosophy idle talk. He put into practice what he preached. He was one of the pioneers of share-the-profits. He established the five dollar day minimum wage at a time when such a figure was unheard of, and later raised the wage to seven dollars per day. He has constantly been in the lead in any matter which promised to benefit "his people," as he affectionately called them.

It is not surprising then that the Ford product should have attained an early position of leadership, and held it through the years; for the spirit of the man is in every automobile that rolls from his countless assembly lines onto the country's roads.

The Combs Motor Company, of Whitesburg, has made it a point to adhere to the business principles laid down by Henry Ford. It is one of Letcher County's two Ford dealers, and is operated by Howard Combs.



There's a New Ford in your future.

FROM EVERY ANGLE  
THE CAR OF THE YEAR

See It Today at

**Combs Motor Co.**

WHITESBURG, KY.





# POLLY HARDWARE and FURNITURE CO.

WHITESBURG, KY.

YOUR  
DEPENDABLE SOURCE OF SUPPLY  
FOR

WESTINGHOUSE  
ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES  
ZENITH RADIOS

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS PAINTS

YOUNGSTOWN KITCHENS

PLOMB MECHANICS TOOLS

See Us for Anything for the Home.  
We Appreciate Your Business

WE HOPE TO PLEASE YOU.

Phone 32

P. O. BOX 488



J. Blaine Polly, Mgr.

## THE STORE THAT SERVES MANY NEEDS

"Steinman & Co. is the oldest hardware Co. in the U. S., established in 1744. Steinman's had receipts for kitchen utensils it sold to George Washington's Continental Army. After the ups and downs of two centuries, this Lancaster, Pa. firm sees more ups ahead. So does the nation's hardware industry, with wholesale activity 40% ahead of last year, and retail sales hitting \$1.5 billion this year, 50% increase over last year." —Pathfinder Nov. issue, 1946.

Jim Frazer owned and operated one of the first hardware stores in Letcher County. Throughout the years, the hardware sales in Letcher was confined mainly to farm equipment, harness, blacksmith equipment and supplies for the lumbering and building in its crudest form. With the coming of the railroads and the developing of the mining industry in the county, the hardware business increased in great volume. Today most hardware stores handle in addition to hardware, furniture and household appliances. Polly Hardware & Furniture Company, Whitesburg, Kentucky, managed by J. Blaine Polly, is built on confidence and fair dealing with its customers. Upon entering this store one immediately feels the atmosphere of courtesy and confidence, both of which have much to do with the continued growth and success of this store. For your household and hardware needs give this store an opportunity to supply them.

## BUILDING A NATION

It isn't battlefields and guns that  
make a nation great,  
Or clanking arms, or marching guns,  
or panoply of State.  
It isn't pageantry, or power where  
Might and Triumph ride,  
For kingdoms are not built on war,  
or nations fed on pride.

It's little homes against the earth  
where peace and love abide,  
It's rugged hills and quiet fields a-  
cross the country side.  
It's children trudging off to school,  
secure and clean and gay,  
Who own the right to childhood's  
land, the right to laugh and play.

It's stony fields and little brooks with  
hidden age-old springs,  
It's tender song of youth and love;  
that some old mother sings.  
It's love of home and fireside,  
It's sweat and faith and toil,  
The souls of men who earn their  
bread from sun and rain and soil.

It's churches built on quiet streets,  
it's winding roads and downs,  
It's apple orchards in the sun and  
prosperous cheerful towns;  
It's cattle on a hundred hills in pasture  
green and sweet,  
And happiness that sets a seal on  
faces that you meet.

It's something deeper still than this,  
beyond our thought and ken,  
The faith that sees the good that lives  
within the hearts of men.  
The woman glad to bear a child,  
protected by her mate,  
It's home and love . . . and little fields  
that make a nation great.

by Edna Jaques (1936)





### Firsts in Kentucky

(Continued from Page 25)

town to have him make his rifle to order and it is now in the Alamo Collection.

1860—Feb. 20th, \$1,000.00 offered to any person who should discover the true cause of Hog Cholera and a remedy that would cure it.

1865—April 14. Pres. Lincoln shot by John Wilkes Boothe, and died April 15th.

Berea College chartered.

Nov. 21, Offices of the Clerk of the Court of Appeals, Sec. of State and Governor of Ky., were burned, consuming all the books and records of the Court of Appeals then in the office. The archives and all the papers of value were saved from the office of Sec. of State.

1866—March 26. George W. Spurrier of Shelby Co. purchased a 6 yr. old steer weighing 4,000 pounds for \$1,150.

May 12. Large emigration by wagon through central Ky. from N. Carolina and E. Tenn. to Illinois and Indiana.

XIII Amendment to the Constitution abolishing slavery.



1867—Dec. 6. Ga. Legislature passed a vote of thanks "For the Ky. donation of 10,000 bu. of corn for the poor of Ga."

Jan. 14. Auditor's report showed paid out under the scalp law since Feb. 1866 as follows: for Red Foxes \$5,412, for Grey Foxes \$2,516, for Wild Cats \$388.50, and for Wolves \$20.50. (Most of the wolf payments made to residents of Letcher and Harlan counties.)

1868—Mar. Death of John Gray at Noble, Ohio, age 106, reputed to be the last surviving soldier of the American Revolution.

1871—April 15th, Negro testimony became admissible as evidence in Court. Prior to this date a white person could not be convicted by evidence of a negro.

1873—Pres. Grant vetoed a bill which had passed Congress, for the relief of those suffering from the destruction of the salt works near Manchester, Clay Co., Ky., pursuant to the order of Gen. Buel. The Pres. said the destruction of the salt works was a military necessity; that he could not consent to the doctrine that the U. S. are liable for all claims of property destroyed by Union Armies during the war.

During the fall of this year there was a great scourge of Yellow Fever over Kentucky and Tennessee.

1875—First Ky. Derby won by Aristides at Churchill Downs.

1878—Board of Health created.

1879—Judge John M. Elliott of Ky. Court of Appeals, fatally shot on the streets of Frankfort in front of the Capitol Hotel by Thomas Buford, of Woodford Co. Judge Elliott had decided a lawsuit over some land contrary to the wishes of the assassin.

(Most of the foregoing information is taken from Collins History of Ky. Vol. 1.)

1895—W. O. Bradley (1895-1899) Ky. First Republican Governor.

1905—Construction began on New Capitol at Frankfort—Completed 1909.

1924—Frontier Nursing Service in Ky. Mts. established near Hyden, Ky.

1926—Goldenrod adopted as Ky. flower.

1928—Free text Book law passed by Gen. Assembly.

1940—Retirement law for teachers.

(Concluded)



This calf will decide to follow the boy. Anyway the promoter thinks so. Just like a calf.— and some folks

Photo by I. A. Bowles

Much livestock is grown in Letcher County and Floyd Ison's Stock sales on Rockhouse afford much activity on sales day each week.

### INSCRIPTION ON THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,  
Send these, the homeless tempest-tossed, to me.  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door.

## WHITESBURG DEPT. STORE

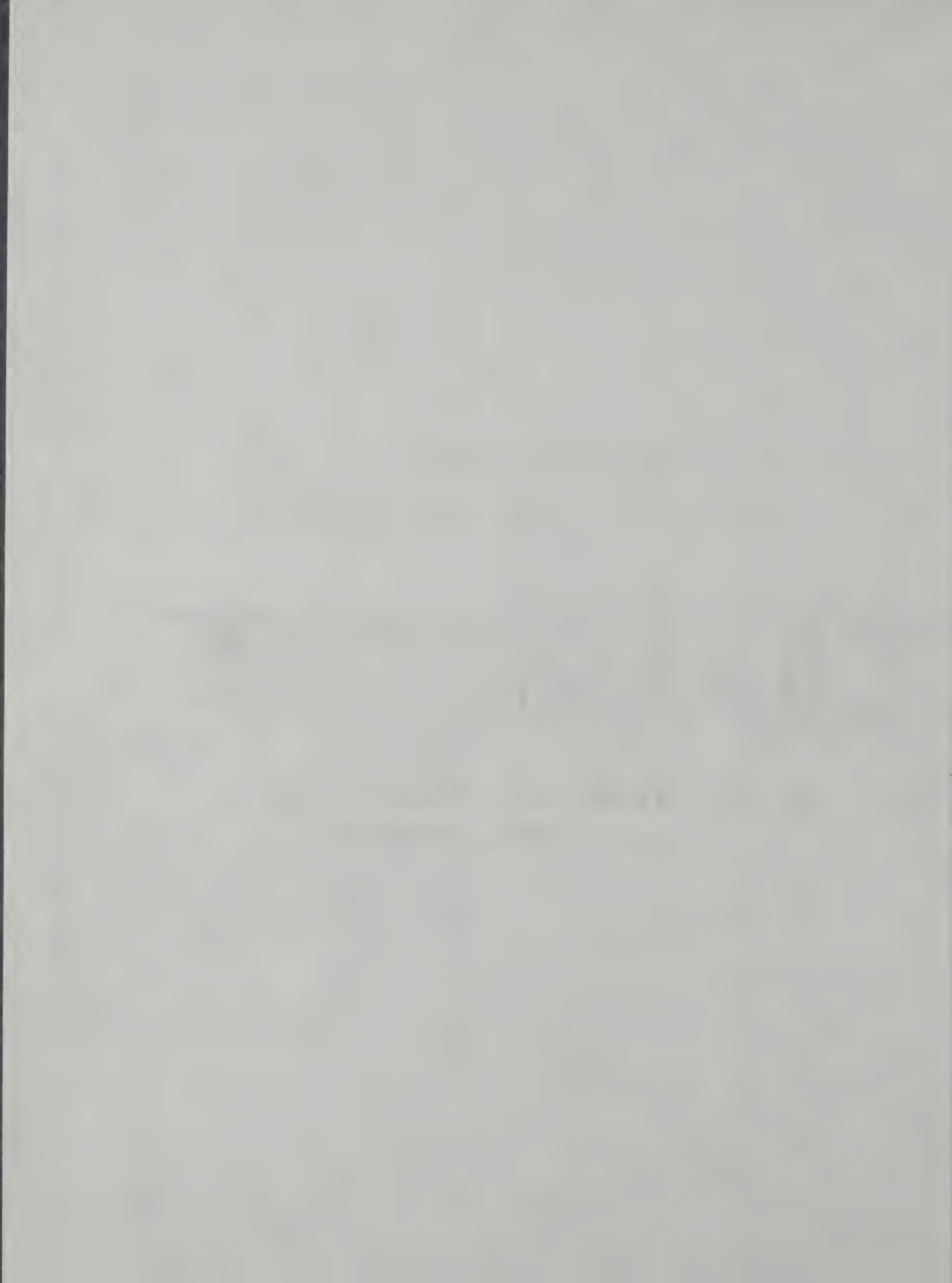
Whitesburg, Ky.

### The Store of Quality

W. H. Heermans, Owner

PHONE 195

MAIN ST.





## Letcher County Public Schools

(Continued from Page 20)

piece of sheepskin. Slates and slate pencils were a luxury. These gradually were replaced with the rough nickel tablet and penny pencil while today the smooth ink paper, nickel pencil and pen and ink are used.

Most of the schools are equipped with modern blackboards and erasers.

The pupils and teacher's lunches were prepared at home and carried to school in "Dinner pails or baskets" and milk placed in bottles or small buckets. These were placed upon the floor in one corner of the school room. At the noon hour the lunch was spread upon the ground or on a log or stump under a shade and the children of each family gather around for lunch in their separate groups. Sometimes two or more families spread their lunch together.

Even though the teacher's pay was meager, it had more buying power than a much greater amount has today. Many a teacher has boarded the entire year or school term with patrons of the district or some individual in the district who thought it a great privilege to have the teacher help his children in their studies at night, without any cost whatever.

In 1836 the sale of Public Lands in Ky. brought \$1,433,177.00 from the Government, and by act of the Legislature in 1837, \$850,000.00 of this sum was set apart to the founding of a general system of Public Instruction.—(Z. F. Smith's Hist. of Ky. P. 715)

In the beginning of the Letcher County Public Schools the pay to teachers and the Supt. or Commissioner was meager as shown by the Letcher County Court Order Book at the March Term 1866.<sup>1</sup>

1—"Ordered by the Court that Hiram Powell, as School Commissioner for 1864 for the county, be allowed and that the Sheriff of the County pay unto the said Powell or order Thirty Two Dollars of the first money collected and not otherwise appropriated." and

Sept. Term 1867. "James B. Fitzpatrick, Common School Commissioner for Letcher County, in Account with the Common School Fund of the State of Kentucky. To check for the amount due Letcher County for School Year.

April 8th by amount paid for tuition 1866	\$1,413.29. (6)
To Trustee for District No. 1 as per voucher	69.84
To Trustee for District No. 2 as per voucher	43.65
To Trustee for District No. 3 as per voucher	84.39
To Trustee for District No. 4 as per voucher	84.39
To Trustee for District No. 5 as per voucher	47.53
To Trustee for District No. 6 as per voucher	45.59
To Trustee for District No. 7 as per voucher	41.71
To Trustee for District No. 8 as per voucher	39.77
To Trustee for District No. 9 as per voucher	49.47
To Trustee for District No. 10 as per voucher	54.32
To Trustee for District No. 12 as per voucher	60.24
To Trustee for District No. 13 as per voucher	77.60
To Trustee for District No. 14 as per voucher	97.10
To Trustee for District No. 15 as per voucher	61.11
To Trustee for District No. 16 as per voucher	50.44
To Trustee for District No. 17 as per voucher	82.45
To Trustee for District No. 18 as per voucher	48.50
To Trustee for District No. 19 as per voucher	91.18
To Trustee for District No. 20 as per voucher	57.23
To Trustee for District No. 21 as per voucher	49.47
To Trustee for District No. 22 as per voucher	45.59
To Trustee for District No. 23 as per voucher	29.10
To Trustee for District No. 26 as per voucher	25.22
To Trustee for District No. 27 as per voucher	36.86
To Trustee for District No. 28 as per voucher	40.74
	\$1,413.29

Signed by James B. Fitzpatrick, Common School Commissioner, for L.Co.

A true copy attest: Solomon Yontz, Clerk, L.Co. Court."

Commissioner James B. Fitzpatrick's report for 1867, filed at the January Term of Court, 1869, shows that there are 29 schools in the County, and a total of \$1,473.18 paid to teachers. Lowest amount to any district was \$26.66 paid out to School No. 20, and the highest amount paid to any one school was \$80.84 paid out to School No. 10.

At the November Term of Court 1867, we find the following two orders: "Ordered that James B. Fitzpatrick, Common School Commissioner of this County for his services for the past year be allowed \$164.00."

"Ordered that James B. Fitzpatrick, as County Attorney from Nov. 10, 1866 to Nov. 10, 1867 — \$30.00."

In 1870 Dr. Pryor came from Virginia to teach a Subscription school to give some advanced training for teachers. He taught at Whitesburg and Colson, each pupil paying \$1.00 per month tuition. In 1885 George Clark opened a similar school in Hindman, and some of the Letcher teachers attended his school. These were called "Winter Schools", "Normal Schools" or "Teachers' Institutes". The scope of the training was limited but usually very thorough. Among these teachers of the old days were some very outstanding instructors with natural ability.



Photo by Cooner, Hazard, Ky.

1875, James E. Sarver reported 43 districts and 36 teachers. As far back as 1872 there are reports of teachers' institutes. These were designed to give the teacher special training in methods, and the duties and responsibilities of teachers. From the Ky. School Report, 1893 to 98 we read that "Never before have we had more than thirteen teachers with first class certificates, but this year we have thirty five with first class certificates".

1895, the five months term began, later six months, and so on. In 1860, the state adopted certain text books. 1871 had a fairly complete list of text books adopted. Teachers to secure certificates to teach were required to pass an examination on eleven subjects.—Reading, Spelling, Composition, Grammar, Geography, History, Arithmetic, Writing, Civil Government, Physiology and Theory & Practice. The questions were very hard and took a good student to make a first class certificate general average of 85, with not less than 70 on any one subject. Second Class certificate average was 75 and Third Class 65. with not less than a certain grade on any one subject.

It is to the credit of the leaders of this hill country, that these conditions have changed. Many of them had a keen insight into the future and overcame the many and difficult obstacles. An outstanding example of this is the Kingdom Come Settlement School located at Linefork, Ky. This is the community described by John Fox, Jr., in his "Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come". It was here that the High School Building, (Log Building) was burned in 1934, and before the fire had ceased burning, other logs were placed on the ground to rebuild the School. It is this indomitable spirit that must win.

The first High School was begun here in an old dwelling house, then the log building was erected, and

(Continued to Page 39)





**CLAUDE BOOTH, CONTRACTOR**  
 Hazard, Ky. — Phone Main 653

Not too many years ago, the term "House raising" was as common as the Radio today. Most all houses were built from large logs hewn on two sides and smoothed down with a large broad axe and the ends notched so that they fit one into the other in such a manner as to hold them in place. The logs were hauled



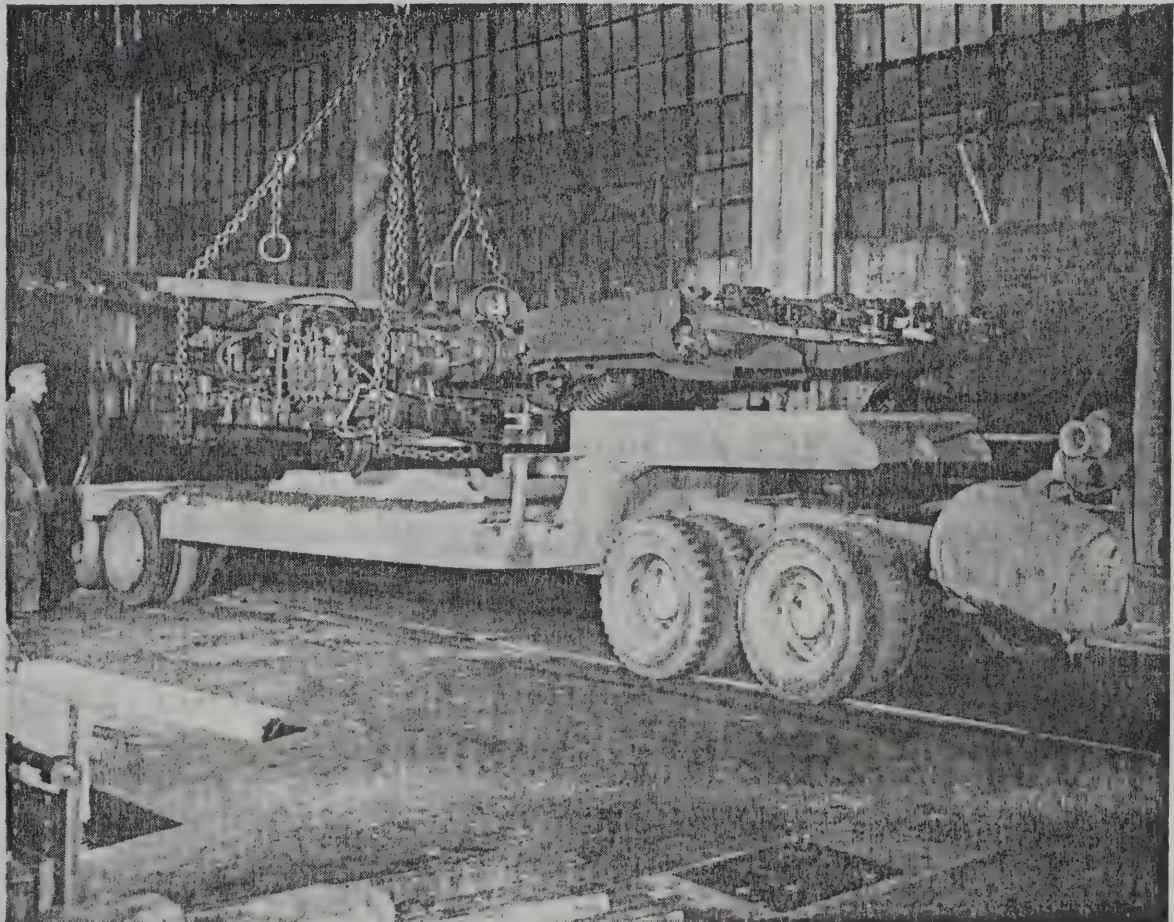
Mr. Claude Booth



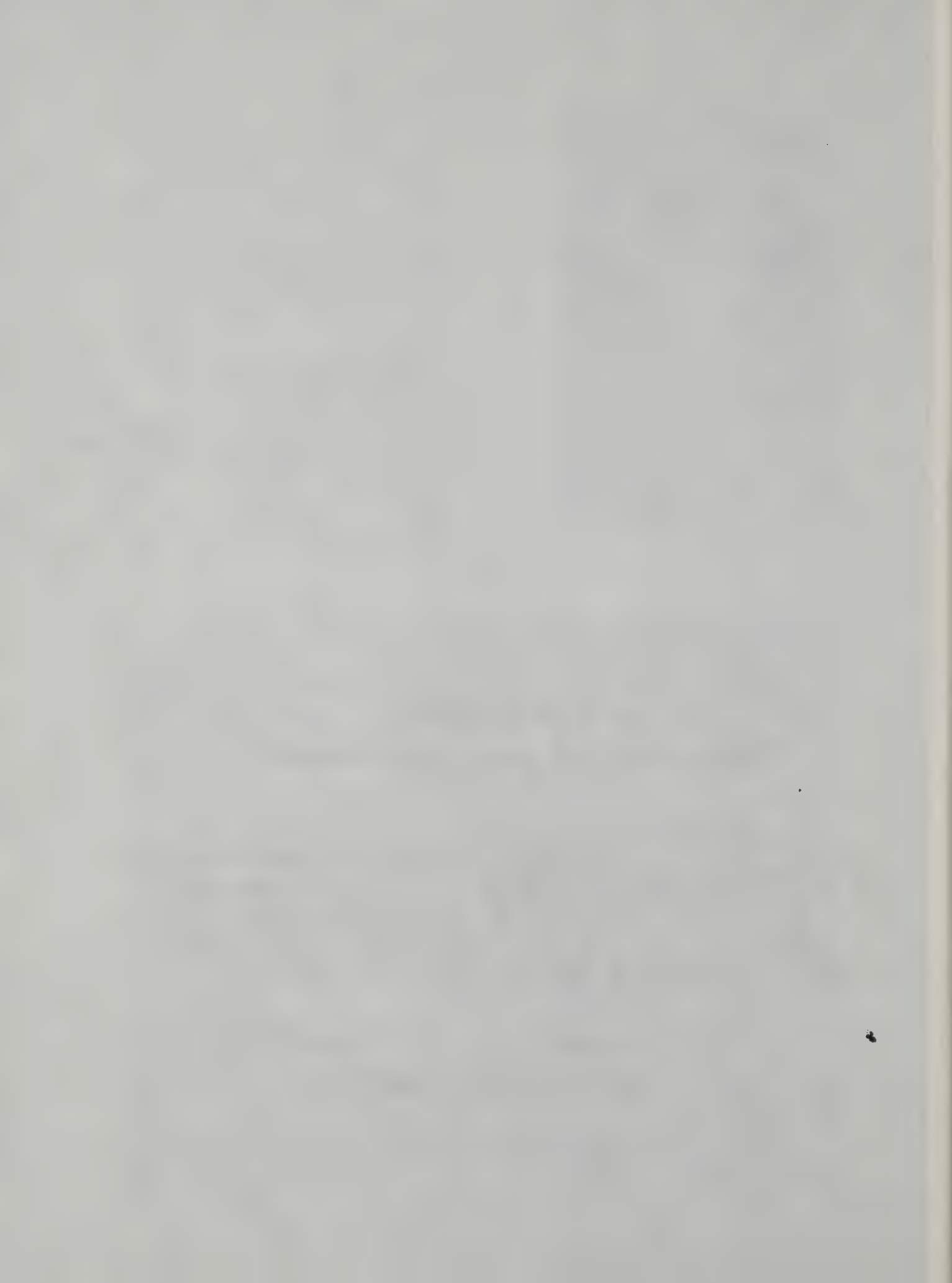
Claude Booth Contractor, stripping coal on mountain side in Letcher Co., East Tenn.

Photo by I. A. Bowles

Let Claude Booth do your stripping of coal, or push a road up the mountain side to your truck mine.



Claude Booth loading heavy coal mining machinery — he hauled this coal cutting machine to the coal mines in Letcher Co., the site of the "Black Diamonds."





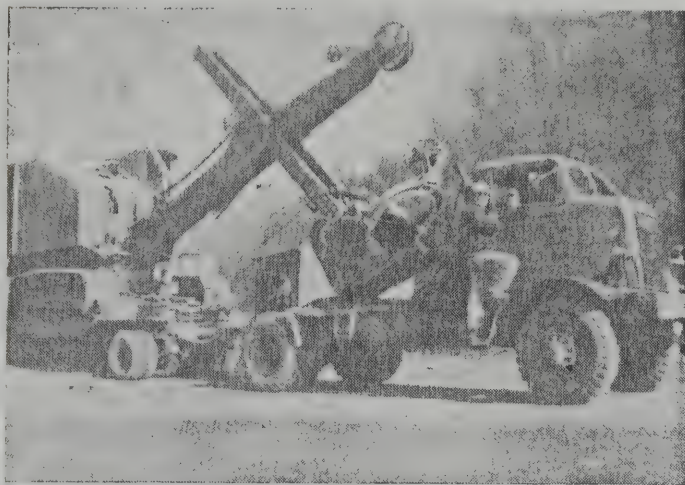


Photo by I. A. Bowles

Claude Booth is equipped to move Shovels, Bulldozers or any other heavy equipments.

to the building site by oxen, in most instances, from the forest near the location for the building. When a man had his logs on the ground and ready to be laid up, the neighbors gathered in and raised the house by laying the logs on top of each other and notching and fitting the corners. After the first round or two of logs were put in place it was necessary to use skids to get the others up to the proper height to place them in correct position.

The neighbor women came in on this occasion and helped to prepare dinner and do whatever other things needed to assist in carrying on the work. The owner of the building usually had a gallon jug of "Corn" hid away and when the work was done, all joined in an evening of mirth and fun following the rhythm of a fiddle "and banger", knocking off splinters from the puncheon floor while cutting the figure eight.

When the logs were all laid, next followed the roof which was made of split boards and, in the earlier times, put on with wooden pegs and later with square nails. Today one can find the square cut nail in some of the oldest buildings and very often can find panel doors made of black walnut and held together with wooden pegs. The old Johnson House now located at Cody in Knott County and one time located in Virginia Territory, later in Perry County, next in Letcher County and now in Knott County has this kind of doors. In this house can be seen two as fine old four post beds as can be found anywhere. They were brought to Kentucky from North Carolina more than a Century ago. Picture of the house appears elsewhere in this book.

The floors were laid of puncheons split from logs from twelve to eighteen inches or more in diameter. The puncheons ranged from two to four inches thick and twelve to eighteen inches wide. They made a rather rough uneven floor but it was a floor just the same. They could be smoothed down with a foot adz and this was often done. Frequently a puncheon or two in front of the open fire place were left loose so that they could be raised up and underneath the floor was buried sweet potatoes and other vegetables.

All this log hauling and house raising process was laborious and burdensome. Today logs are hauled over paved roads or graded dirt roads for twenty five miles or more to a saw mill or for shipping. They are loaded on the truck with a Joy Log Loader or derrick

or dragged with a tractor to log skids. Even mill boilers, large tanks and other very heavy items are handled with power and proper machinery so that the very heaviest jobs are made easy.

Claude Booth, prior to 1931 was loading coal and doing other work around the coal mines in Perry County, conceived the idea that he wanted a business of his own and to that end, he engaged in contracting various construction jobs and wrecking bridges, taking sand from the Kentucky River and drying it for use by the coal mines. This was in the early part of the depression years. He worked hard and long hours, often late at night and arose long before day break and drove for miles to his work. He carried on with many ups and downs and many times his efforts seemed hopeless but he never lost that burning desire to own and operate his own business. He kept on and on doing every job he undertook the very best that he could, whether he gained or lost money at it. For he always felt that he was building confidence and a reputation for Square Dealing with everyone.

His success has proved that it pays to deal squarely and honorably with the public for today he is equipped to move all kinds of heavy machinery and equipment, including Bulldozers, Shovels, coal cutting machines, coal loading machines, heavy steel, heavy sheet metal of all types, to stand steel in buildings and to haul anything that can be hauled on a heavy trailer. If it can be moved Claude Booth can move it and do it speedily and easily. He will build a road to your truck mine or level off a house site or other grading. Just call him at Main 653, Hazard, Ky., and tell him about your wants. He is able, willing and ready to serve you. He still follows the principles and rules that have built his business,— That of honesty and a square deal with every one. If you need to hire a Shovel, Bulldozer, Air Compressor or have heavy equipment or machinery to load or unload from Railroad Car, always call Claude Booth, Hazard, Ky. Phone 653. The **best service** is **always** the **cheapest**.

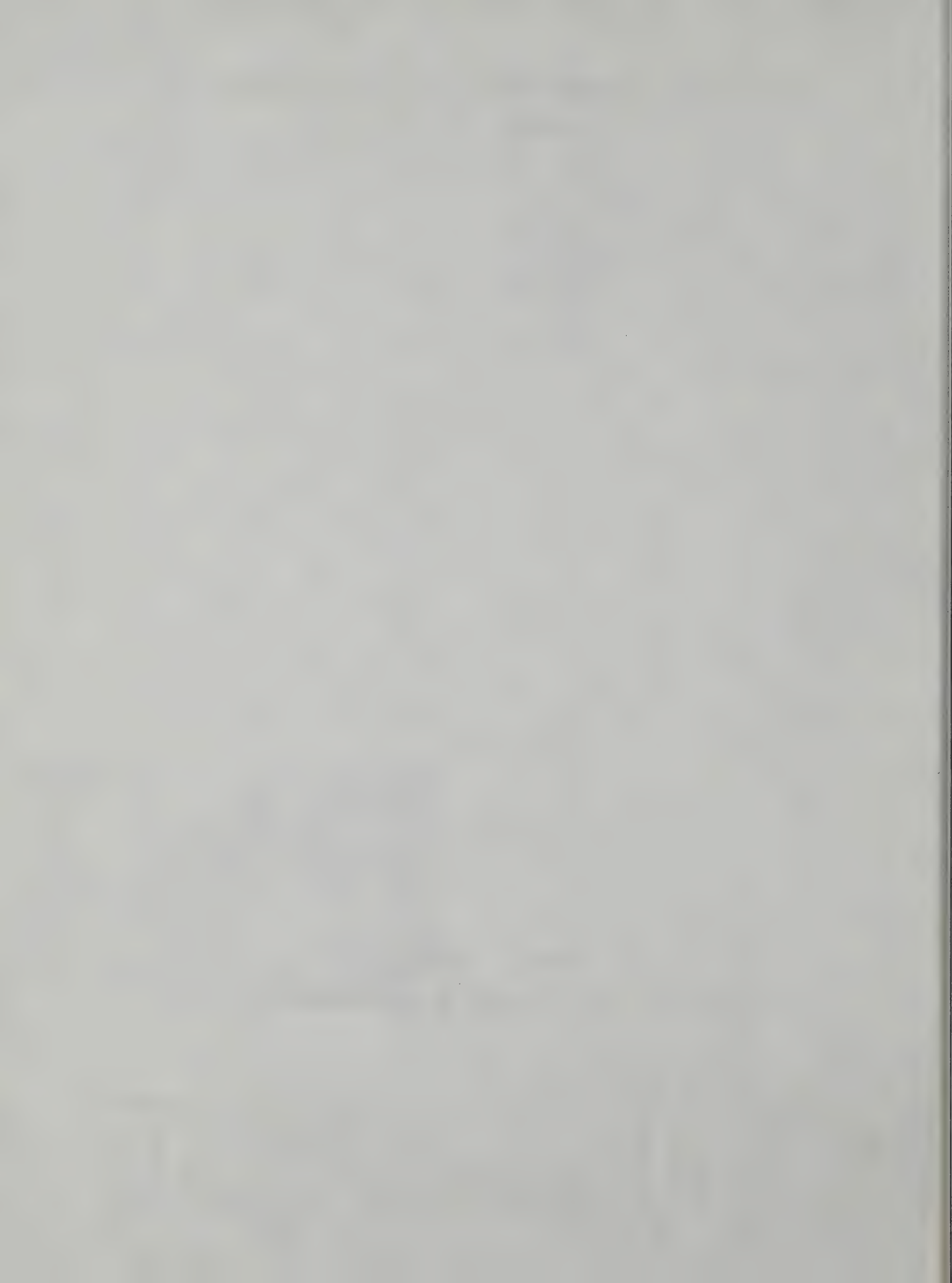


Claude Booth hauling a coal loading machine.

### Rudeness

One of Dorothy Parker's more telling retorts was in answer to the snobbish young man who had been discouraging at some length at a party and had finally observed, "I simply can't bear fools."

"How odd," was Miss Parker's reply, "Apparently your mother could."





### A WORD OF APPRECIATION

Consolidation Coal Company (Ky.) appreciates the brave spirit of the pioneers of Letcher County. It is proud to have been one of the County's leaders in mining and during our 34 years here, we are glad to have had and still enjoy the services and comradeship of thousands of Letcher County citizens in the erection and continuing operation of a vast mining enterprise in good old Letcher County.

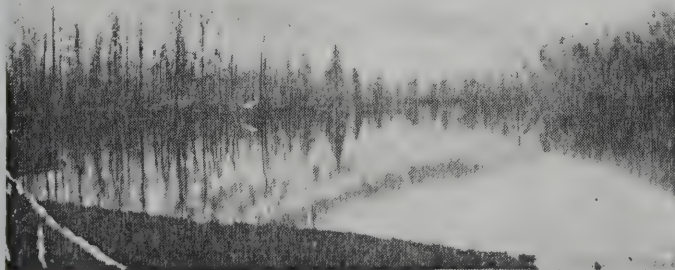


Residence of the President of Consolidation Coal Co. (Ky.)

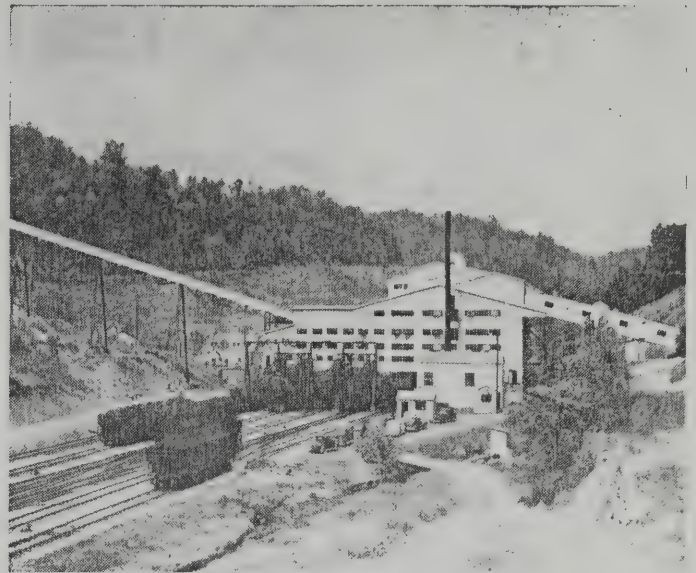
### CONSOLIDATION COAL COMPANY

The original Consolidation Coal Company was incorporated March 9th, 1860, by an Act of the Legislature of Maryland. Its organization was delayed by the Civil War and was not undertaken until April 19th, 1864. This company was recognized as one of the leaders in the development of the Bituminous Coal Industry and formerly operated mines in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Kentucky.

Many ages ago, nature spread the land with luxurious vegetation swamps everywhere, moist air and mild climate so that vegetation flourished to a fantastic degree. Fish, reptiles and insects were plentiful but



Elkhorn Lake, Jan. 8, 1916.



Central Preparation Plant which sometimes is loosely referred to as the million dollar tippie.

man had not appeared. During those ages of time, countless layers of organic matter, through the slow aeons, were formed into coal. The Appalachian Coal Field, the largest in the country, reaches from northern Pennsylvania to central Alabama and is more than 900 miles long and an area of nearly 63,000 square miles. The vast holdings of the old Consolidation Coal Company lie near the center of this field. It began its operations in the Georges Creek Region, a canoe-shaped basin about 25 miles long and six miles wide, in the western part of Alleghany County, Maryland, in the famous Big Vein Georges Creek seam. Coal deposits are divided into four "Fields" for purposes of classification, and these are subdivided into regions which take their name from local surroundings or history.

The first authentic record of coal in the Georges Creek Region is shown on the Frye & Jefferson Map of Virginia 1751, by the words "Coal Mine" near



Inside of one of Consolidation Coal Company's mines at Jenkins, Ky. Coal seam approximately 9 feet thick with a parting of fire clay. This mine is properly timbered and cleaned.







View of Elkhorn Lake taken from Raven Rock.

Georges Creek in Maryland. Later maps marked the same coal mine. In 1810 an unusually violent storm unearthed a large area of a huge seam, probably the Pittsburgh or Big Vein, near Barton. People came from miles around to see it and some hauled it away in carts or wagons and used it for smithing. Later it was hauled to Westernport and loaded on flat boats or rafts and floated to Washington. It is certain that the Sheets Mine in Western Maryland was operating in 1816. Coal from that mine was used in the manufacture of glass in Cumberland at that time.

Aside from the visitations of earlier explorers, the settlements by white people in the mountains of northeastern Kentucky did not begin until many years later. Those early pioneers settled upon land grants issued to them by Virginia and later by the new Commonwealth of Kentucky.

History records that coal was practically unknown in Kentucky until about 1830 as those early settlers did not realize its great value as a fuel, and the coal was not developed until long after.

It has surprised many to learn that as early as



One of the first tipples.



Recreation Building was one among the first buildings erected by the company. Note that T-Model Ford, one of the first if not the first car brought to Letcher County.

1865, oil and gas leases were taken upon certain lands on Elkhorn Creek, only three miles below what is now Jenkins and in Johnson County other early oil and gas leases were obtained. In both instances, those leases expired without exploration.

It appears that the first development of coal on Big Sandy River was at Peach Orchard, about twenty-five miles downstream from Van Lear, by the Peach Orchard Coal Company. That company purchased some 2,000 acres in 1847 and starting about 1850, loaded the coal into barges and, at time of sufficient water stage, floated the loaded barges down Big Sandy to the Ohio, and thence to Cincinnati.

The first railroad up Big Sandy Valley was built in 1881 by John Carlisle and Colonel George S. Robinson. It was known as the Chatteroy Railroad and ran from Ashland on the Ohio, up Big Sandy to Peach Orchard, where, as explained, coal hitherto had been mined and shipped by water.

The coals of the Big Sandy, a watershed comprising over 4,000 square miles, were perhaps never explored more intelligently nor thoroughly in those early days than by an engineer from New York City, Richard M. Broas, who was a Civil War veteran and had been a Captain in the Federal army. Later he became

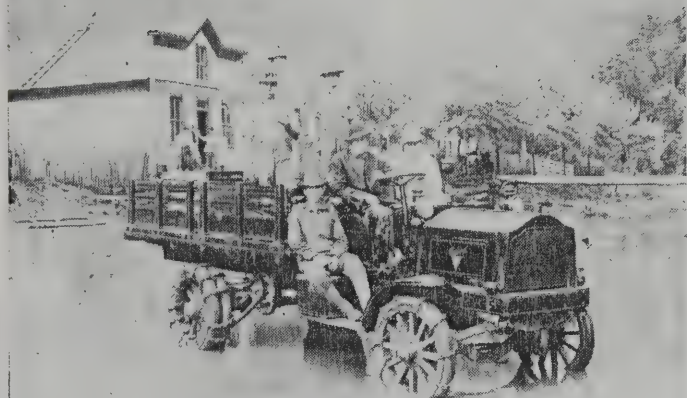


Hospital erected by Consolidation Coal Co., now owned by the Sisters of Divine Providence and known as Sharon Heights Hospital.

1. The first part of the report is a general introduction to the subject of the study. It discusses the importance of the study and the objectives of the research.

2. The second part of the report is a detailed description of the methodology used in the study. It includes information about the sample size, the data collection methods, and the statistical analysis techniques.





First Motor Truck in Letcher Co.  
Property of Consolidation Coal Co.

a searcher for minerals, the choicest he might find, beginning with the early oil development in Pennsylvania around Oil City, followed by an unsuccessful quest for gold and silver in the Sierras, and then Kentucky. In 1881 he came to the lower reaches of Big Sandy River in the interest of the Walbridges of Toledo, to examine a coal property between the forks of the river near Louisa. His engineering insight found little in favor of the coal there, nor did he look upon the Peach Orchard seam as promising, but once in the field, he was prompted to search to the southeast. Significant it is, but perhaps natural enough, that in his very extended explorations he singled out as particularly desirable two distinctly different and widely separated seams, the very ones long after developed by Consolidation—the Millers Creek and Elkhorn seams!

After reporting on the Walbridge project, Broas' further explorations in Big Sandy Valley were financed by some of the men who had backed his earlier gold and silver ventures, particularly Nathaniel Stone Simpkins, of Cape Cod, Massachusetts. After prospecting throughout the summer of 1881, Broas purchased for his principals some 1,000 acres on Rockcastle waters lying adjacent to and back of Consolidation's development of Millers Creek property at Van Lear. Probably Broas was actuated by his conception of a proper rail outlet in selecting the adjacent watershed flowing into the Tug Fork, for he formed a railroad company and surveyed and obtained a right of way down to Kenova, located, oddly enough, on almost the present line of the Norfolk and Western.

It was the plan of Broas and his principals to mine and ship their coal to the lake points via the Scioto Valley (now the Norfolk and Western), railroad then having a southern terminus at Coal Grove, Ohio. The coal property was purchased only after the most penetrating study by Broas, who established mining headquarters and went so far in his exhaustive tests, in one place, as to drive entries in the coal completely through the mountain.

While engaged in the lower Big Sandy Valley, Broas received word that a coal of coking quality was to be found a hundred miles farther up the valley at a place called Ash Camp on a creek named Elkhorn, where it was said the coal had been opened. Under assignment of certain options, Broas came to

the lower Elkhorn in April of 1883. The coal opened there, true enough, was of coking quality but being in the Cumberland Mountain in close proximity to the Pine Mountain Fault, was found by him to be limited in extent. In September of that year he pushed on up the narrow, picturesque valley of the Elkhorn—and on its headwaters, near the mouth of Joe's Branch, he found the coking coal he had long sought.

Then began the most painstaking and thorough prospecting of this coal of so much promise. Establishing headquarters for his party of surveyors, prospectors, and title investigators, Broas opened the coal in countless places for miles around and analyzed the samples with such precision that he marked to a nicety the scope or boundary limit of Elkhorn coal of the highest quality and purity. A sad disappointment, the death of Nathaniel Stone Simpkins, suspended activities until 1886-87, when a nephew, John Simpkins, authorized Broas to purchase all of the coal that he could unqualifiedly recommend.

Broas selected with exacting care and purchased a large acreage on the headwaters of Elkhorn Creek and adjacent watersheds found by him to embrace the very cream of Elkhorn coal. Beyond those limits nothing could persuade him to buy. As actual mining operations have now established that the chemical character of the coal so changes within only a few miles of Jenkins as to require shipment to a different market, the discernment of Broas can be looked upon only with unbounded admiration.

Never able to get a railroad to penetrate into that remote region to assure the development of this choice property, Broas eventually sold it to John C. C. Mayo, who was then associated with the Northern Coal and Coke Company. On October 8, 1910, Consolidation obtained an option from the Northern Coal and Coke Company for the purchase of 100,000 acres of this peer of all Kentucky coals—and this property was conveyed by deeds dated November 28, 1910, and January 2, 1911, respectively.

Consolidation Coal Company spent a tremendous



Consolidation Coal Company's office building.



Loaded Coal cars let down the tracks from the modern preparation plant.





sum of money developing the coal mines in Letcher County before shipping any coal. It was necessary to plan and build a water system, power plant, office, commissary, tipples, houses for the company men and employees, school buildings, churches and import and train skilled carpenters, mechanics and engineers. Prior to the opening and developing of the coal industry, the settlers of Letcher were farmers, timbermen with a few men skilled in black smithing, cabinet making, and live stock raising in a limited way. All equipment and supplies were brought into the community from Virginia on wagons drawn by several teams of horses or yoke of oxen. The long haul from Rocky Branch, Virginia to Jenkins across Pine Mountain over rough dirt roads was very arduous. The company kept on hand a monthly overage of 150 head of stock to haul materials and supplies, amounting to 10,250 tons of freight per year. During the winter months it was necessary to hire seventy head of stock from Walton & Co., Falls Mills, Va.

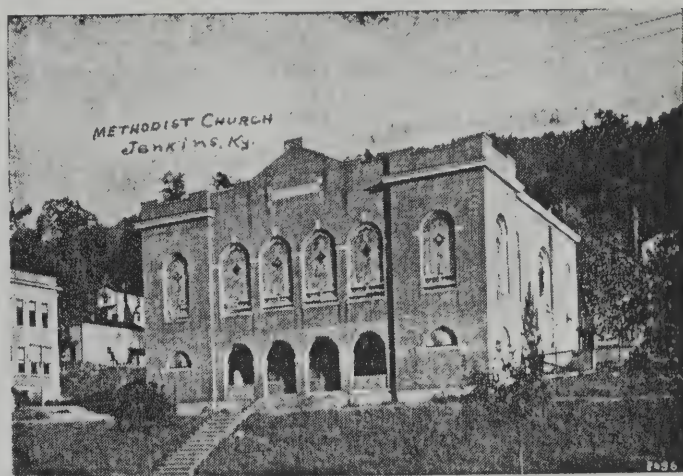
GOODWATER RESERVOIR was completed October 10th, 1912, and is 140 ft. long, 95 ft. wide and the dam is 20 feet high. It has a capacity of 1,200,000 gallons and furnishes the main supply of water. It empounds the water of Goodwater Branch, a stream flowing from the limestone outcrop on the western slope of Pine Mountain.

ELKHORN DAM is located across the valley of the Little Elkhorn Creek 360 feet above the Central Power plant. Large rocks amounting to about 38% of the material used, are embedded in the concrete. The dam is 290 feet long, 42 feet high and contains 4434 Cu. Yds. of concrete. The dam is embedded in solid rock and the ends are keyed into solid rock.

Excavation for the dam began September 1911, removing 1194 cu. yds. of earth and 1920 cu. yds. of rock. Pouring the concrete began March, 1912 and was completed in August 1912. The dam is reinforced with 3,000 lineal feet of  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch and 1,000 feet of  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. reinforcing iron. The lake has a capacity of 70,000,000 gallons of water.

In the early part of 1912 seven saw mills were in operation on Elkhorn Creek and two circular mills and one band saw located at McRoberts. The band mill had a capacity of 30,000 feet per day.

First passenger train pulled out of Jenkins October 1, 1912 (S. V. & E. RR.). Prior to this date the company had mined and stocked sufficient coal to make up the train and was ready for shipping coal when the rail-



road was completed ready for transportation. The seam of coal in the Northern Section of the company holdings averages  $8\frac{1}{2}$  feet with a parting of fire clay ranging from six to twelve inches.

In 1901 Consolidation Coal Company shipped coal by rail to San Francisco, the first to ship from east of the Alleghenies. It had shipped coal previously around Cape Horn and other foreign places. The British Steamer "Osborne" on April 8, 1901, began loading Georges Creek Coal and its cargo of 6,000 tons was the first ever shipped from Baltimore to Yokohama, Japan.

In 1907 two car loads of coal were dug out of the hill where Consolidation Mine No. 153 now stands and hauled by wagon to Stafford, Kentucky, and from there shipped by train to the Jamestown Exposition, where the coal was used in building a blockhouse of coal which proved to be one of the principal attractions of the exposition.

At the International Fair in Milan, Italy, in April, 1924, Consolidation provided a startling attraction in its exhibit of gigantic blocks of Fairmont and Georges Creek Coal blocks taller than a man. The blocks had been transported intact from the mines.

At the time of Commander Richard E. Byrd's flight to the North Pole in 1926, he gave eloquent testimony to the high quality of Consolidation coal by choosing it for the coaling of his supply ship, the "Chantier."

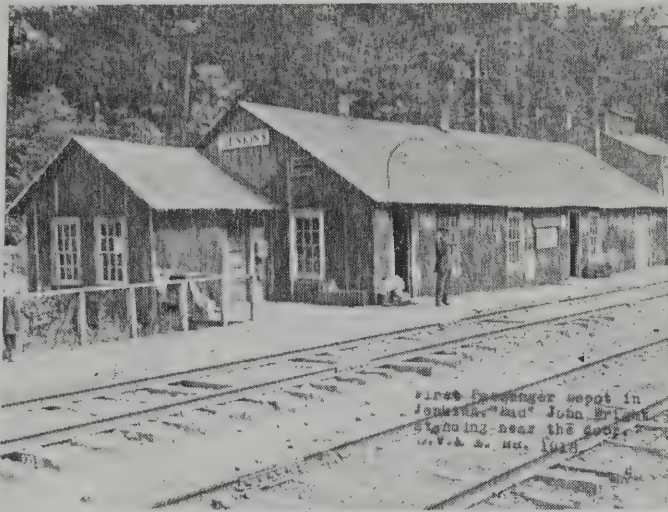
For a number of years prior to 1925, Consolidation had held second place in the bituminous industry, but in 1926 and 1927 its production forged ahead until it became the largest commercial producer of bituminous coal in the United States. Its previous peak year was 1915—11,722,384 tons.

Consolidation mines give vivid testimony to the steady improvement in mining methods and processes. The first shipment of coal from Letcher Co. was over the Sandy Valley and Elkhorn Railroad Oct. 1, 1912. Consolidations mining and preparation are guided by standards admittedly the highest in the industry. At one time its tipples were small wooden sheds containing a chute to guide the coal into the railroad car and a crude looking device to hold the mine car in place while it was dumped, but now they are marvels of mechanical efficiency.

In 1942 the company completed a modern preparation plant at mine No. 207, at Dunham, which may be described as follows: Five underground mines load all coal mechanically and transport it to the Central Preparation Plant where it is screened, mechanically







The man standing in front of the above depot is identified as "Bad John" or "Devil John" Wright, about whom so much has been written.

cleaned and loaded in railroad cars under constant supervision, that high quality may be maintained. The cleaning process in itself, takes advantage of the difference in specific gravity between pure coal and material which has no fuel value, with the result that a clean coal is obtained which ranks with the best coals produced for metallurgical and by-product use and for the ever increasing domestic stoker market.

This preparation plant receives a raw material and by means of closely controlled processes, produces an extremely low ash, low sulphur, high heat value product, which is shipped into widely dispersed markets and accepted as a dustless, solid fuel of extremely high quality.

For many years Consolidation made large contributions in both effort and money toward improving the living conditions of its mine workers and their families.

Recreation buildings serve as a community center for the miners and their families. Home canning and gardening are encouraged, so that in many divisions, virgin soil is being cultivated with great success. The miners are able to produce much of their food, thereby reducing living expenses and at the same time improving the appearance of the community. Landscaping and the growing of flowers and vines have been encouraged since the very beginning of Consolidation's operations in Letcher County. The school system in Consolidation mining communities ranks among the best anywhere. The Jenkins Schools are discussed elsewhere in this book.

Some years ago the coal company erected various buildings which have been used for school purposes but have now been donated and conveyed to the School District. Various other buildings were erected by the coal company which were used for church purposes. Some of these have been donated and conveyed to the respective church organizations and the others will be deeded to the church groups as soon as surveys can be had and conveyances prepared.

Consolidation was the pioneer in placing graduate nurses in mining towns and in developing free industrial nursing service, and today the eight trained nurses at the hospital, four more available and two internes and one laboratory technician play a highly important role in the welfare of the community. The medical needs are provided for through medical units

throughout the mining regions with five full time physicians and surgeons, one dentist and a splendid modern hospital at Jenkins. Until recently the company sponsored a health program throughout the Jenkins Schools.

For many years the company operated approximately 25 industrial stores throughout its mines, with complete lines of merchandise, many of the department store type—affording convenience to the mining population. These mining communities are not closed camps to outside mercantile institutions. The merchandising department of the company rests its claim for patronage on competitive prices, quality, service and courtesy to the customer.

In the fall of 1945 Consolidation Coal Company was merged into Pittsburgh Coal Company and the latter immediately changed its name to Pittsburgh Consolidation Coal Company. That is now the name of the parent company which owns the coal properties of the former two companies in several states. Consolidation Coal Company (Ky.), is a corporation of which Mr. S. M. Cassidy is President and was created and organized to operate the Kentucky properties. All the store properties have been conveyed to Champion Stores, Inc. which company operates numerous stores in several states.



A moonshine still in operation near Jenkins, Ky. and inspected by some of the officials of Consolidation Coal Co. and others during the early development of the coal industry in Letcher County.

### BREEDING'S GARAGE A NEW INDUSTRY IN LETCHER

Located on Highway No. 15 in Letcher County on Collie Creek, a new industry was given birth as a result of the rapid development of the truck mining industry in the county. Herman Breeding, the proud owner, and his assistants are kept busy turning out truck beds, mine cars and other related wood and steel products.

Breeding's Garage, is located only a few minutes drive from Whitesburg, and is one of the two large scale body builders in the county. Mr. Breeding is well known in Golfing Circles, and is the son of Lish Breeding and Sallie Banks Breeding, and is married to Belle Noble of Breathitt County. They have four sons and one daughter.

Herman Breeding is rendering a valuable service, and all work is guaranteed. If you want the best work done promptly go to Breeding's Garage, Collie Creek, Whitesburg, Ky.





## Letcher County Public Schools

(Continued from Page 31)

before it burned in 1934, a splendid stone building, sponsored by the Methodist Church, was under construction, Mr. H. M. Frankes supervised its building. Donations were made by local citizens and by donors throughout the entire country, and a great crowd gathered at the laying of the corner stone of this building. A still greater crowd assembled at the celebration arranged at the final covering of the building, including many donors from New York City, and other points, and the spirit and great joy of this celebration was saddened by the unfortunate fatal injury to one of the visiting donors Rev. .... who fell from the roof of the building, and died soon after being rushed to the nearest hospital.

The youth of this community have walked as far as five miles to attend this school. Here they are trained in weaving, home economics, sewing, manual training, agriculture and fruit growing in addition to the regular grade and High School courses.

Letcher County Board of Education purchased this splendid building in July 1946, making it a part of the regular public school property of the county. In the past, many donors and friends of this Settlement School have provided scholarships for deserving young men and women to attend it. Many bringing farm products and others doing errands to provide for their board and room.

In 1908 the county High School Law was enacted making it mandatory that a county High School be established in every county in the state. The first High School was established at Whitesburg, 1912 and J. L. Hays, Attorney of Whitesburg is its first graduate. There are now three accredited High Schools in the county (Excluding the Independent School System of Jenkins which is discussed elsewhere), ten graded schools with five or more rooms and forty-two with two to five rooms. The school census for 1940 was 10,460; 1945 there were 5,183 males and 4,731 females, and in 1946 there were 5,037 males and 4,982 females. The percentage of attendance was 78% for 1945. There are 57 male and 178 female teachers; and of this number 41 are college graduates, and 108 have completed two or more years of College work.

The teacher's salaries are fixed as follows: \$100.00 per month base pay with \$1.00 added for each year of experience through five years; \$2.00 for Supervision for 1 to 4 teachers supervised and \$4.00, in the 5 or more teacher schools; and 60 cents per Semester Hours through 128 Semester Hours. Highest salary paid any teacher is \$181.20; lowest salary is \$100.00 and the average salary is \$140.00 per month. Total amount paid out to teachers in 1946 was \$310,000.00; total amount received by the Educational Department for the year was \$369,247.60. Each teacher is required to attend the UKREA each year.

There is now under construction at Hemphill an eight-room brick building (1946). Rebuilt the School building at Mayking, the old one having been destroyed by fire. There are 8 school buses and 6 lunch rooms in operation. Prior to this year, the lunch rooms were sponsored by the National Government. This year they are sponsored by the State Department of Education.

Prof. E. H. Crawford, Bardstown, Ky. taught several High School Classes during 1911-12. He was one of the great teachers and educators of Ky. He was loved by all who knew him and was so wrapped up in his teaching that he instilled in the very heart of every

youth who attended his classes a burning desire to acquire an education. The following became a slogan, "attendance the first two weeks depends upon Dad, after that they can't keep one away."

When the compulsory attendance law became effective in 1920, it became necessary to establish a school in reach of every child of school age in the county. The improvement of the roads added greatly in making this possible. Schools have been consolidated and bus transportation provided for school children. With the net work of good roads all points in the county have been brought much closer together, so that now those living in one part of the county are not total strangers to those living in another. There is a closer fellowship and more public spirit; and rivalry between schools has created a better relationship. Competition in the sports and scholastic events have improved citizenship. A letter written to the Mountain Eagle in 1926 gives some insight into the growth and development of the schools and the spirit that prevails. The letter is copied as follows: "Little Colly School: School is doing fine. We have two teachers and over forty pupils in each room. We have a nice clock, nice curtains and shades, a globe, flags and all kinds of decorations. We do our best to keep it clean and nice. Our playground is cleaned of trashy papers. We are thankful to the Superintendent for having our building painted inside and out. We paid for the inside painting ourselves. Some of the pupils are out for foddering. There has been no trouble of any kind and the pupils are doing their best to learn and obey the teacher."

About 75% of Letcher's Public Schools have libraries and there is a county library containing 300 volumes. The Whitesburg school library contains 2,500 volumes. Two schools are heated with steam heat.

Today the Letcher County Public School System is under the able supervision of Martha Jane Potter, elected to this office in 1942 by the Educational Board composed of James Whitaker, Frank Blair, Willie Crase, James R. Maggard and Dr. E. G. Skaggs. Miss Potter is assisted by Rose Mary C. Whitaker, and Alice Fields, secretaries, Harold G. Hurst, Attendance Officer, W. Walter Hall, Book Clerk, and Robert Blair, Health Coordinator. This splendid corps of officers and assistants are doing their school work in Letcher County in a superb manner.

(Concluded)



New Graded School — Whitesburg





### THE BEAR STORY

There are a great many orders appearing in the Circuit Court Civil and Criminal Order Books from the forming of Letcher County through the sixties, allowing various named persons claims for producing certificates of magistrates certifying that a wolf or wild cat or fox had been killed. One person introduced a certificate of a Virginia Magistrate that he had produced the head of a wolf before that magistrate and his claim was allowed by the Circuit Court of Letcher. It appears that Some of the Maggards were the leading hunters. They resided on the Cumberland Side of Pine Mountain and roamed the great forests for wild game. They killed bears, wolf, wild cat, coon, opossum, squirrel, mink, skunk, wild turkey, deer and other animals. "Hoadley" Maggard, uncle of James Maggard, Eolia, Letcher County, Ky., who is father of John D. Maggard, Chief Clerk of the Price Control Board, in Whitesburg, was the leading hunter of all.

It is said that he was a devout Christian and always attended church at the regular meeting time, and carried his rifle slung under his arm as he sallied forth to and from Church. Walked over into Virginia to Church on many occasions. He stood his hog rifle behind the church door and after services would take the "old Trusty" and hunt on his way back home. On one occasion he was pressing a "Catamount" too closely and it sprang on his back and began clawing him and the only way he could get it off was to back up against a large tree and mash it, which he did.

On another occasion he tracked a large bear to its den. By shinning a light back in the den he could see its eyes. He could tell from its tracks it was very large. Fearing he might wound the bear and it come out on him he cut down a large chestnut tree and cut a log off it and rolled the log up in front of the entrance to the cave. He laid his rifle on the log, aimed straight between the bear's eyes and fired. He could not be certain of his mark because he could not see it through the dark with any certainty.

Lucky enough the bullet drove straight to its mark with deadly effect. The seasoned hunter rolled back the log, crawled into the den, got behind the bear and began rolling it out, when it got hung in a small place, cutting off the circulation of the air and almost smothering Mr. Maggard to death. He succeed, however in securing his hunting knife and cutting up the bear so that he could get it and himself out of the den. Bryant Holcomb now owns the rifle used on that occasion.

### KENTUCKY COUNTIES Letcher County History

(Continued from Page 5)

Prior to Dec. 31st, 1776, Kentucky was a portion of the County of Fincastle, Virginia. By act of the Legislature of Virginia Dec. 31st, 1776, Fincastle was divided into three counties, one of which was called Kentucky, and embraced "all that part thereof which lies to the South and westward of a line beginning on the Ohio River, at the mouth of Great Sandy Creek, and running up the same and the main or north-easterly branch thereof to the Great Laurel Ridge, or Cumberland Mountain; thence south-westerly along the said mountain to the line of North Carolina."

In May 1780, Kentucky County was divided into three counties, Jefferson, Fayette and Lincoln. Jefferson embraced "That part of the south side of the Kentucky River which lies west and north of a line beginning at

the mouth of Benson's Big Creek, and running up the same and its main fork to the head; then south to the nearest waters of Hammond's Creek, and down the same to its junction with the Town Fork of Salt River; thence south to Green River, and down the same to its junction with the Ohio."

Fayette County embraced "That part which lies north of the line beginning at the mouth of the Kentucky River, and up the same to its middle fork to the head; and thence south-east to Washington (Tennessee) line."

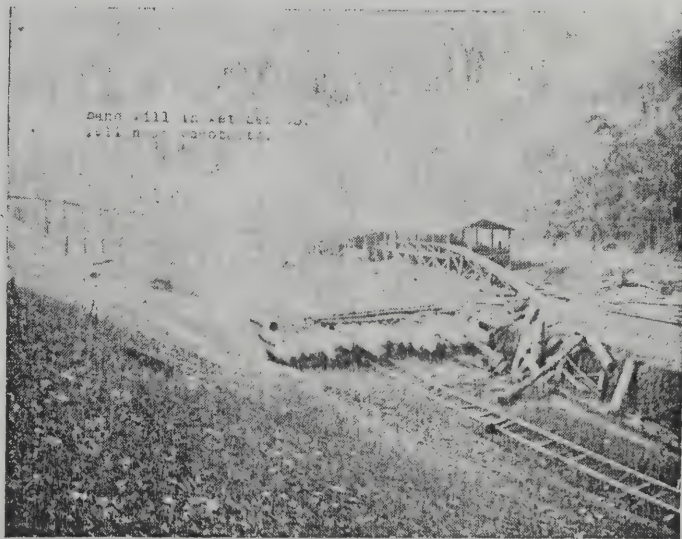
Lincoln embraced the residue of Kentucky County.

By Act of the Virginia Legislature effective May 1st, 1785, Fayette was divided, calling the northern portion Bourbon. May 1st, 1888, Mason County was formed out of part of Bourbon; and Woodford out of part of Fayette, making four counties out of the original Fayette.

There were nine counties established by Virginia Legislature while Kentucky was a part of Virginia Territory,— Jefferson, Fayette, Lincoln (the first three), Nelson, Bourbon, Mercer, Madison, Mason and Woodford. Washington County, established in 1792, was the first county formed after Kentucky became a state.

Letcher County territory was in Fayette County when the Kentucky territory was first divided into three counties and in 1785 when Bourbon was formed from Fayette it was in Bourbon, and in 1788 when Mason was formed it was a part of that county, and in 1799 when Floyd was formed from Fleming, Montgomery and Mason, it was a part of Floyd, and in 1820, when Perry was formed from Floyd and Clay, it was a part of Perry, and in 1819 Harlan was formed from Floyd and Knox, it was partly in Harlan, and in 1842, Letcher was formed from Perry and Harlan counties. It is rather an amusing local story as to why a part of Pike County was taken from that county and put in Letcher. The story goes that when "Devil" John Wright was active and living on the Little Elkhorn, and was sometimes affectionately called the "Tall Sycamore of the Elkhorn", he was known to be having an affair with a certain female down the creek in Pike County. The Pike County Magistrate issued a warrant charging him with adultery and fined him on the warrant. Perhaps this occurred more than once. Rep. Bates, a close relative of "Devil" John was in the Legislature at the

(Continued to Page 41, Col. 2)



This mill averaged cutting 30,000 board feet daily.







Ishmael Napier

Mrs. Nellie Ison Napier

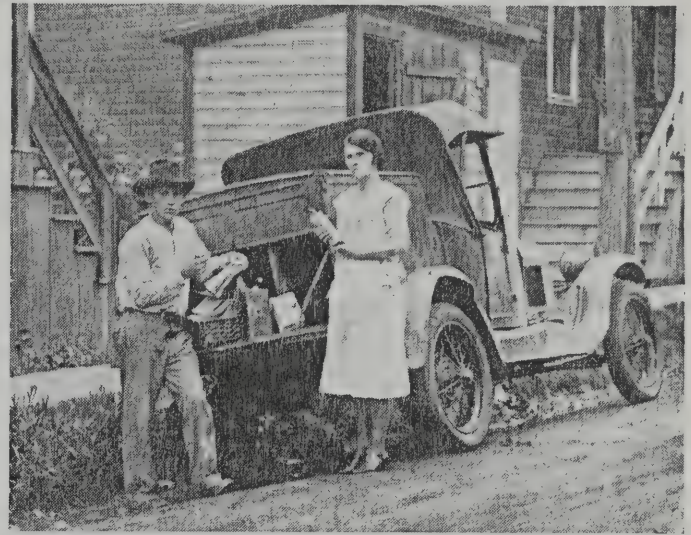
### BROWNING & NAPIER STORES

Neon and McRoberts, Ky.

"All things work together to those who love the Lord." This slogan is especially true as reflected in the growth and development of the BROWNING & NAPIER STORES. Bill Browning was born at Wooten, Leslie County, Ky., 1904, the son of James and Katie Lewis Browning. Katie was the daughter of the late Chris Lewis of Wooten. Bill's father died when he was very young, leaving the responsibilities of the household upon him and his elder brother. At the age of 18 years he married Mollie Baker, daughter of Adam and Jennie Williams Baker of Leslie County. Three girls and four boys were born to this marriage. Mr. Browning came to Letcher in 1925, selling Rawleigh Products, using a one horse wagon. At this time he was a bad drunkard and had squandered most all his earnings. In 1927 he became a Christian and was baptized into the Church of Christ. In the same year he traded his one horse wagon and horse to a T-Model Ford and continued selling Rawleigh Products and preaching the Gospel throughout Eastern Kentucky Counties. In 1939 he and his sister Mollie Browning opened the Browning Cash Store in Neon, Ky., with a Capital of \$500.00.

In 1939, Ishmael Napier, son of James and Mary Elizabeth Combs Napier, came to Letcher from Hiltonia, Perry County, Ky., where he was born September 11th, 1911, and began clerking in the Browning Cash Store. After two months he and Mollie Browning were married Oct. 6th, 1939, after which Mr. Napier became a partner in the business. A son Ishmael Larry, was born to this marriage on August 19th, 1943, and the second day thereafter, Mrs. Napier died. Her share of the business, \$3,000.00 was invested in War Bonds for their infant son, Ishmael, Jr., and the business was continued in the name of Browning & Napier.

The business continued to grow and on November 15th, 1945, another store was opened half way between



Bill Browning and Ford in which he traveled over Eastern Ky. Counties, selling Rawleigh Products and Preaching the Gospel.

Neon and Fleming, and today these two Christian Gentlemen are the proud owners of the Neon Dry Goods Store, Neon, Ky., carrying a complete line of Dry Goods, Shoes, and Ladies and Children's Ready-to-Wear; and Browning & Napier Store, McRoberts, carrying a complete line of Hardware, Furniture, and Household Appliances, Coal Ranges and Heaters, Groceries, Fresh Meats, Fruits and Vegetables, and Hay and Feed. They operate a delivery service. Mr. Napier and his wife are in charge of the stores and Mr. Browning continues to sell Rawleigh Products and to preach the Gospel throughout Eastern Kentucky. He says that a man never is so far gone that he cannot seek and receive Salvation.

Mr. Napier married Nellie Ison, daughter of James and Nancy Yonts Ison, March 6th, 1946. She is in charge of the NEON DRY GOODS STORE.

Today the combined stores and buildings are valued at \$20,000.00. Why shouldn't both these Christian Gentlemen believe that "All things work together to those who love the Lord?"

### Letcher County History

time so he was influenced to introduce a bill in the Ky. Legislature cutting that certain portion of Pike in which "Devil" John's interests lay, and making it a part of Letcher. The bill passed both houses and the line between the two counties was changed accordingly.

The counties in Eastern Kentucky and the dates they were formed and from what counties taken are as follows:

Floyd—1799—from Fleming, Montgomery and Mason.  
Clay—1806—from Madison, Knox and Floyd.  
Estill—1808—from Madison and Clark.  
Harlan—1819—from Floyd and Knox.  
Perry—1820—from Clay and Floyd.  
Lawrence—1821—from Greenup and Floyd.  
Pike—1821—from Floyd.  
Morgan—1821—from Floyd and Bath.  
Breathitt—1839—from Clay, Perry and Estill.  
Letcher—1842—from Perry and Harlan.  
Martin—1870—from Pike, Floyd, Johnson and Lawrence.  
Leslie—1878—from Clay, Perry and Harlan.  
Knott—1884—from Perry, Letcher, Floyd and Breathitt.

(Continued to Page 43)







Photo by Manies, Neon, Ky.

Interior Abdoo-McKinney Store. Mr. and Mrs. Abdoo standing.

### ABDOO-McKINNEY JEWELRY Neon, Ky.

#### ETERNALLY YOURS

The old Pharaohs founded the custom of using a wedding ring to seal the marriage compact. In ancient Egyptian lore the wedding band was a symbol of life, love and happiness throughout eternity. And no man today would dare lead his bride to the altar without first producing a wedding band to express the trust that their union be perpetuated forever.

Today, over ten million dollars are spent annually on the little gold or platinum band that binds. The custom, ancient though it is, is almost as much a part of the ceremony as the few words that tie the nuptial knot.

But it has not always been third-finger-left-hand for the wedding band. Various fingers have served for this purpose down the centuries. It was the ancient Greeks who first used the significant; and not without good reason. They believed that the veins from the third-finger-left-hand led directly to the heart, and that if this spot were safely guarded by the symbol of life, love and eternal happiness then all would be well.

However, the wedding band is only one of the many items handled by the modern jewelry store. At the newly opened Abdoo-McKinney Jewelry store in Neon, you will find a complete line of the most up-to-date merchandise, as well as jewelry of the eighteenth century that has considerable historic significance.

This store was opened in April of 1946, being a partnership of William E. Abdoo and Robert McKinney, both well known local men. It is located on Main street in Neon in the newly constructed brick fronting the traffic light.

At this time the store is still in the process of development. Wall cases for holding the jewelry will be installed. Some of these cases are mirrored glass cabinets; others will be of black onyx with velvet lined shelves. When completed it will be one of the most modern jewelry stores in the south, both from the point of merchandise and beauty.

Even now their stock includes jewelry suitable for any occasion and any pocket book. In their safe are diamond rings ranging in price from twenty dollars to three thousand five hundred dollars. On display are nationally known brands of watches, . . . Gruene, . . . Bulova, . . . Longines, . . . Whitmore, . . . Benrus, . . . Hamilton, . . . Elgin and imported Swiss watches.

Watch repairing is done under the latest scientific methods. The store has installed a cleaning machine that is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction, the most recent development of the repair trade, and one of the very few of its kind in the State of Kentucky.

In addition to a complete line of jewelry and time pieces, Abdoo-McKinney also handles small electrical appliances, radios, pen and pencil sets and an abundance of gift suggestions. Only the best of nationally advertised bands are featured.

Yet another service of the Abdoo-McKinney store that is certain to be in demand is its engraving and jewel mounting department. Stones of all kinds are mounted into the desired setting.

And every item of service is fully guaranteed. On diamonds they offer a full trade-in value as much as a year later on another purchase. This store has also instituted a lay-away plan for those who feel the need of this particular service.

The Abdoo-McKinney store is a member of the National Jewelers Board of Trade, and has a top rating with Dunn and Bradstreet. Open each day during the week from eight in the morning until nine in the evening, Eastern Standard time, the store extends to you a cordial welcome.

The slogan of Abdoo-McKinney is "Exquisite but reasonable . . . we intend to please."



Get your Wedding Gifts at  
**ABDOO-McKINNEY'S**





**Letcher County History**

(Continued from Page 41)

**SALT WELL**

We have heard old citizens relate stories of salt wells and of going for many miles for the season's supply of salt. In Letcher County many people went to Pikeville, to Kanawha, W. Va., and Goose Creek, Clay Co. Ky., over trails and up and down creek beds for their supply of salt. We have seen great kettles of cast iron in which salt was made or evaporated. This process consisted in boiling down the water which left deposited in the kettle in a crystalline form, the salt. There were salt springs or "licks" and other mineral springs scattered throughout the country, to which wild game, including deer, bear, wolf, and other animals came for salt. Frequently the hunter would layway these salt springs and await his prey.

There was a salt well near the depot end of the bridge, now near the center of Whitesburg. One can get a fair idea of the value placed upon such wells from reading a Deed now of record in Deed Book No. C-D, page 97, records of the Letcher County Court Clerk's office: This deed dated Oct. 26th 1858 from Hiram Hogg to Shaderach Hogg, conveyed a one half interest in a salt well located within the City Limits of the City of Whitesburg for the recited consideration of \$400.00 cash in hand paid. This was a sizable price for half interest in a salt well in that day and time.

Salt was brought from Kanawha, W. Va., 180 miles distant, or from Goose Creek, a little above Manchester, Ky. The Goose Creek wells were by far the best in the country and fixed the price of salt in Eastern Kentucky, and were owned and operated by Colonel Garrard. The Whites also owned salt wells there. There was another salt well at Proctor, above Beattyville but it seems that few citizens went there for salt from Letcher. Manchester was about 125 miles away and over very poor roads, or trails. Salt was usually carried on horse back, and took several days to make the trip.

"Salt was made some years ago from the water of a well near Hazard, bored 400 feet below the bed of the river; a bushel of salt was produced from 85 gallons of water. Brashear Well, at the mouth of Leatherwood Creek, was 410 feet deep and in it was found a fine brine of which 65 to 70 gallons yielded a bushel of salt. In these borings several veins of coal were passed through."—(Vol. 2 Collins Hist. of Ky. page 679.)

Robert Brashear owned the Salt Well at the mouth of Leatherwood.

**OUR FORESTS**

The Poet Joyce Kilmer said, "Only God can make trees". Yet man can do a great deal to save trees and to cause new trees to grow. Axes, saws and fires are killing one hundred and fifty trees for every one hundred trees planted. Cicero's advice, "He plants trees to benefit another generation," is the watchword to be followed. According to statistics there are today a total of standing timber in this country of 1600 billion board feet. This is 43% less than it was forty years ago, and nine percent less than in 1938.

The American Forestry Association is planning to develop a program everyone can support. Experts named by the A. F. A. recommend a broad planned program of private, state and Federal Action in reforestation, public education, fire protection and forest management. The committee recommends that "state laws be enacted to regulate the use of privately owned

forest resources. Such laws would require planting to balance cutting, outlaw destruction of immature growth and strengthen the forest fire prevention laws already in effect. Secretary of Agriculture, Anderson, insists that the Federal Government can do a better job of policing the forests. This is a good step forward, and little matter which plan is promulgated, whether by policing, or otherwise, or by a combination of all methods, tree planting and preservation of the forests sufficiently to perpetuate them is a desirable and hopeful idea. Let us hope that tree planting soon will out-distance tree cutting.

After all, the fact that the fine poplar, lynn, buckeye, cucumber, ash and other forest products are shipped away to other cities and communities and there, manufactured into furniture and other products and then shipped back to be sold in Letcher and other mountain counties in Eastern Kentucky, is not the really serious and significant point. There is a sadder depletion still,— the young boys and girls and some older ones are following these various raw products to the distant cities and there seeking employment in the factories and establishing their homes in these distant points, never to return except perhaps on a visit.

Letcher County should have one or two furniture manufactories, a good upholstering establishment, a toy factory and other manufacturing plants. Toys and boxes could be made from the waste around the various large saw mills. Such plants would furnish employment for our own people. Public schools should maintain manual training and other vocational or avocational courses. This would go a long way to furnishing employment and retaining our fine mountain boys and girls at home.

### Some Orders Taken from The Letcher Circuit Court Order Books

Oct. Term 1843 Order Book A page 9.

"Ordered by the Court that summons issue against Stephen Hogg and Henry Polly to appear before this court on the first day of the next Term to show cause if any they have or can, why they shall not be fined for contempt in claiming as venire without be entitled thereto."

Letcher County Court Orders—June Term 1867—  
"On motion of Nat. Collins,

"This day came the attorney for the Commonwealth, and the defendant being sollomly called, came not but made default, whereupon it is considered by the Court that the defendant make good his fine to the Commonwealth by the paying of five shillings, and the costs herein expended and said defendant may be taken into custody, etc."

According to the orders entered back 1840 to 50 the Sheriff was allowed a fee of \$2.00 for making an arrest on a felony charge, and 12½ cents for each witness summoned.

"Order—1843 The Clerk of the court reported that he had received as a Tax on Deeds, etc. twenty five dollars and fifty cents from the first day of the June Term, 1842 to the first day of the present Term which is ordered to be paid to the Trustee of the Jury Fund and Certified to the Auditor of Public Accounts."

Order Book No. 2. Commonwealth and Civil Orders. Oct. 1843 to 1850.

The first four pages are torn out of this order book. The following is the first order that appears in this

(Continued to Page 45)





**JACKSON HOUSE FURNISHING CO.**

Neon Junction — Phone 2571

**THE ROMANCE OF MERCHANTIZING**

The Jackson House Furnishing Company of Neon Junction was born before the first gun was fired at Fort Sumpter announcing the beginning of the Civil War in 1861.

Jackson House, as it is known throughout Letcher County today, is the outgrowth of a long and constant service to the public. It is much more than a business enterprise. It is a member of a merchantile dynasty stretching back to the days of Abe Lincoln and Henry Clay. When Jackson House was born Letcher County was little more than a wilderness sparsely settled with hardy pioneers who had crossed the mountains from Virginia.

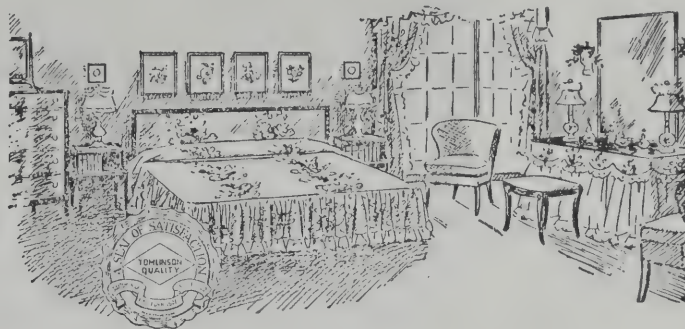
The real founder was Charlie Jackson, who was born near Hickory, North Carolina. He was the father of Madison Jackson who opened the first Jackson store near Davenport, Virginia, shortly after the war between the states ceased. Madison Jackson had three sons, each of whom acted as manager of the store for a period of one year, after which he turned the management over to his brother, who in turn managed the business for a life term. Thus, it was, that each of Madison's sons became well grounded in business practices and principles.

Later, the sons of old Madison Jackson branched out into business ventures of their own, holding to the tradition of the family. Today the Jackson family has varying interests in the following stores:

The Haysi Hardware, Haysi, Va. . . . Jackson Hardware and Furniture Company, Grundy, Va. . . . Pound Hardware and Furniture Company, Pound, Va. . . . Jackson's, Wheelwright, Ky. . . . and Jackson House Furnishing Company, Neon, Ky.

This is a far cry from the time when old Charlie Jackson spent his days building ox yokes and wagons for pioneers at Hickory, North Carolina. There can be little doubt that many an early Letcher County family rolled up the narrow valleys and across the high hills toward their Promised Land in wagons built by the skilled hand of old Charlie Jackson, pulled by oxen straining at a yoke fashioned by those same hands.

An interesting bit of history connected with Jackson



House lies in the fact that the wagon works originally established by old Charlie Jackson later became the manufacturers of the "Hickory Wagon" so well known to teamsters throughout this section only a few years ago.

The Jackson House Furnishing Company of Neon was opened in 1936 by Edgar Jackson, who was later killed in a car wreck.

Guy Jackson, the present manager, and a cousin to Edgar Jackson, is responsible for the continued growth of Jackson House in Letcher County. His well known slogan "Let Jackson House furnish your house" can be seen daily on trucks owned by the company as they scurry about the county in pursuit of business interests.

Truly, Jackson House is as well prepared to fulfill that motto as any concern in Letcher County. They have a spacious display and store room. Their floors are well stocked with the latest and most modern quality furniture and electrical supplies. You get the feeling immediately upon walking into this store that Jackson House can furnish your house . . . to your perfect satisfaction.

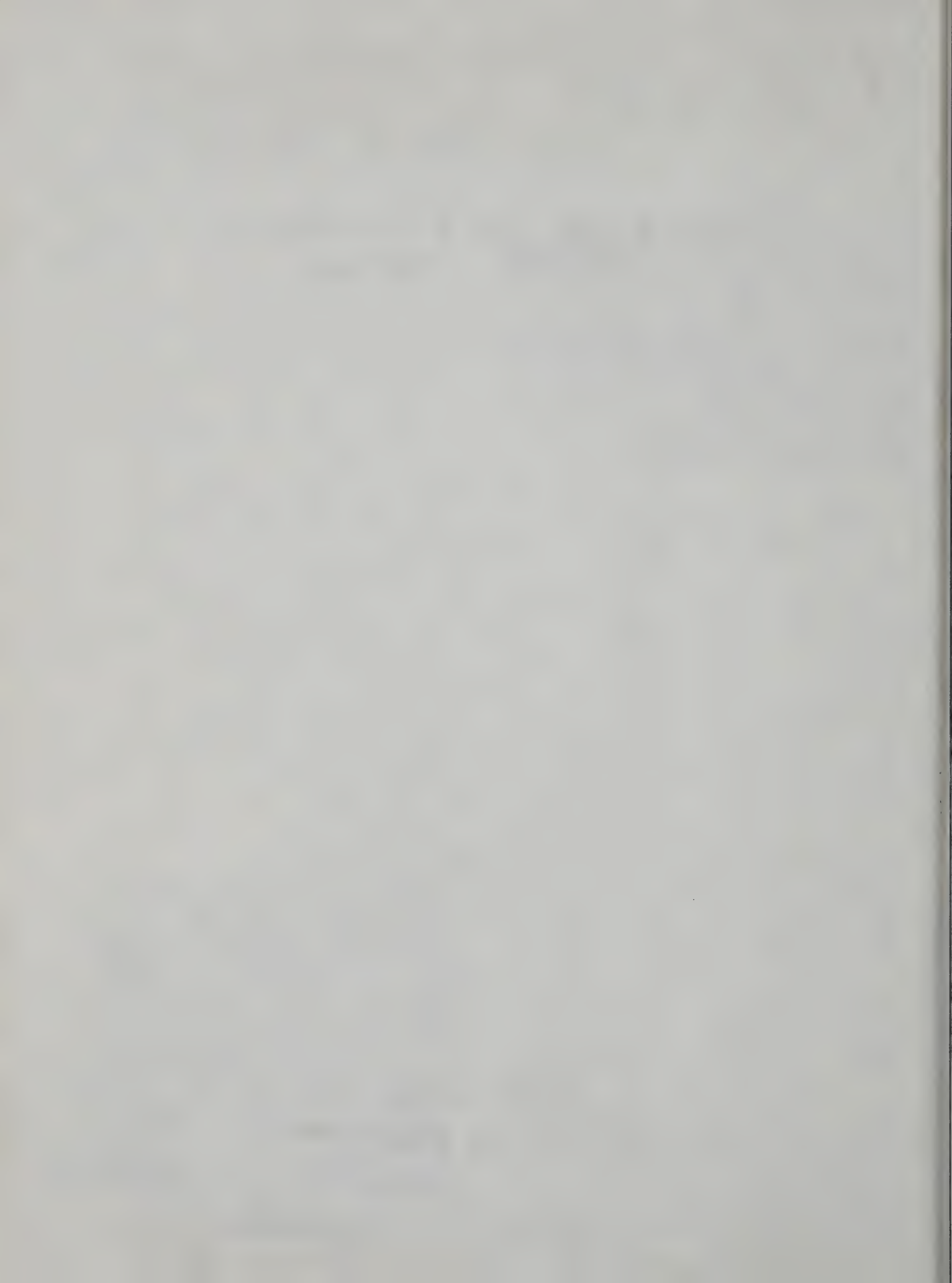
Guy Jackson has installed an easy payment plan which makes it possible for anyone to purchase the things needed to complement a modern and livable home. They can deliver anywhere without waiting.

And remember "Let Jackson House furnish your house."

Phone Neon 2571.



Interior View Display Most Up-to-Date  
Furniture and Home Appliances





## Letcher County History

(Continued from Page 43)

first order book.

"October Term 1843. 1st. day.

Kentucky, Letcher County Sct.

At a Circuit Court began and held at the house of Hiram Hogg in said county (the place appointed to hold said Court) on the 16th day of Oct. 1843, was present the Honorable Turnstal Quarles, Judge of the 15 "Judicial District of Kentucky."

John W. Jenkins was the Clerk of the Letcher Circuit Court, and John G. Crump was appointed Commonwealth Attorney, the regular Commonwealth Attorney not being present.

From the best records and evidence obtainable it appears that Samuel Francis was the first sheriff and Nathaniel Collins the first Judge and Hiram Hogg the first Jailer of Letcher County.

Second Sheriff was John Williams,—April 1848—Orders evidence this fact.

From the oldest records obtainable the first Grandjury of the Letcher Circuit Court composed the following: 1. William Burgey, (foreman), 2. Ambrose Burgey, Jr., 3. Isham Morgan, 4. Enoch Webb, 5. Elijah Adams, 6. Levi Eldridge, 7. James Hughes, 8. William Yonce, 9. Reuben Hall, 10. William Quillin, 11. Moses Adams, Sr., 12. Samuel Back, 13. John Amburgy, 14. Matthew Caudill, 15. Isaac Potter, 16. Alfred Hall, (See page 14 of the first order book).

First Jury Commissioners: John Caudill, Edward Polly and Isaac Stamper selected fifty men for jury service at the next term of the court.

The first days orders of the two days term of court are unique and interesting, herewith are some of the orders copied verbatim. Oct. Term 1st day, 1843. "James Maggard produced a certificate from a Justice of the Peace of his having killed one wolf, which was examined by the court and ordered to be filed, copied and certified to the Auditor of Public Accounts."

"Moses Evans produced his claim against the Commonwealth amounting to fifty cents which was verified by his oath and ordered to be filed, copied and certified to the Auditor of Public Accounts."

First days orders signed by Judge T. Quarles.

Order entered on page 16 of O.B. No. 1 throws some light upon the compensation received by the Circuit Court Clerk in the beginning of the County as compared with what he receives today. "Ordered by the Court that John W. Jenkins, Clerk of this court be allowed Forty Dollars from the first day of the June Term, 1842, to the first day of the present term of his Ex-Officio services which is ordered to be certified to the Auditor of Public Accounts." (2nd day Oct. Term 1842).

Next order. "On motion of Ezekiel Brashear, he was appointed as Clerk Pro Tem of the Court, whereupon he executed bond in the sum of \$10,000.00 with the following sureties: Sampson Brashear, Randolph Adams, John W. Stamper, Austin C. Godsey, Moses Adams, John Caudill and Joseph C. Cornett."

"Ordered that John W. Jenkins, former Clerk of the Court deliver all the records of the Court to the present Clerk of the Court and take duplicate receipts for them."

The following order Ezekial Brashear is appointed Trustee of the Jury Fund and executed bond with Henry Polly and A.M. Burgey his sureties.

The October Term 1843, Orders are not signed by any Judge. The adjourning order appears on page 12 of the order Book but not signed. Pages 13 and 14 are missing.

The April Term 1844. George R. Adams was the presiding Judge of the April Term, 1844, and held court at the home of Jepe Adams in Whitesburg. Three days of Court.

The March Term of Court 1845 was held in the Courthouse in Whitesburg with W. B. Kinkead, Judge present and presiding. Court was convened on Monday March 30th and continued for three days.

First recorded Divorce Case in the Letcher Circuit Court was that of Henry Caudill, Plaintiff vs. Jane Caudill, Defendant. (5th day of April Term 1848). Same day of the term the following order was entered: "Judge Maggard produced in open Court the certificate of George Adams, J.P. for four wild cat scalps, amounting to \$2.00 which was examined, allowed and ordered to be certified to the Auditor of Public Accounts for payment."

William B. Kinkead, Judge signed the orders at the Oct. Term 1849.

Many pages of orders are missing at the back of



Little Elkhorn Valley was covered with dense forest of huge Oak and Poplar at the time Consolidation Coal Co. began development in Letcher. The above is the present site of Elkhorn Lake.

Civil Order Book No. 1, the last page being 315.

"March Term 1st day 1851, Monday March 31st held in the courthouse with Judge Edwin Trimble, presiding. The grandjury at this term of Court returned into open court indictments as follows: 5 for profane language, 2 for perjury, 2 for larceny and 1 for drunkenness."

Order Book B page 111, Oct. Term 4th day, 1853, appears the following:

"STATE OF KENTUCKY

Sct.

COUNTY OF LETCHER

On the 5th day of October, 1853, personally appeared before the Hon. Green Adams, sole Judge of the Letcher Circuit Court, in open Court in the courthouse in the Town of Whitesburg, Mrs. Delphia Jestice, a resident of the county of Letcher and State of Kentucky, aged 66 years, who being duly sworn according to the law, doth, on her oath make the following declaration in Order to obtain the Benefits of the provisions made by the Act of Congress aforesaid February 3, 1853, that she is the widow of Simon Jestice who was a Revolutionary Pensioner of the United States and drew a pen-

(Continued to Page 50)





### THE BRIDGE BUILDER

An old man, going on a lonely way,  
 Came at the evening, cold and gray,  
 To a chasm vast and deep and wide;  
 The old man crossed in the twilight dim,  
 The sullen stream had no fear for him;  
 He turned when safe on the other side  
 And built a bridge to span the tide.  
 "Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,  
 "You are wasting your strength building here;  
 Your journey will end with the ending day,  
 You never again will pass this way;  
 You've crossed the chasm deep and wide,  
 The builder lifted his old, gray head—  
 Why build a bridge to span the tide?  
 "Good friend, in the path I have come" he said,  
 "There followeth after me today  
 A youth whose feet must pass this way,  
 This chasm that has been naught to me  
 To the fair haired youth may a pitfall be;  
 He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;  
 Good friend, I am building this bridge for him."  
 —Edmund Foss

### TAVERN LICENSE AND RATES

We have heard much public discussion about OPA and Price Control during and since World War II. There was much resentment from various sources and more favorable comment from the masses. It did appear, however, to have considerable influence upon the Black Market. Price control is not new. It has been in existence in some form or other for centuries. In the beginning of the history of Letcher County and prior to the birth of the county, Eastern Kentucky, had Taverns which were subjected to price control and license. We find an order in Perry County Court Order Book, No. 2, entered at the Nov. Term, 1832, as follows: "On motion of the Attorney for the Commonwealth, the Tavern rates are laid and regulated as follows, to wit: for a meals victuals 18¾ Cents, for horse per 12 hours 25 Cents, for single horse feed 12½ cents, for a man and horse per 24 hours 75 cents, for Bedding alone 6¼ Cents, for Brandy or why- per half pint 6¼ Cents, by the Quart 25 Cents, Imported Liquors 25 Cents, rum, wine, etc."

One can hardly imagine such prices as are set out above, after having experience in paying \$1.50 to \$6.00 per day for hotel room, 75c to \$1.50 for a meal and \$5.50 for a pint of old Taylor. Today with the horse replaced by the automobile, one pays 50c per night or more for storing the car, and \$1.25 or more for one feed, (five gallons of gas) for the "Old Lizzie"; and when it is taken to the blacksmith shop to be shod,—(to the garage for repairs—) then one must turn the bill fold inside out and pay the balance on payday.

The following order appears in the Letcher County Court Order Book No. 1, at the March term, 1866: "At the dwelling of Mariah Newland, Ordered that the said S. R. Brashears be granted a Tavern License for the term of 12 months and the following be the rates of the said Tavern License and said S. R. Brashears gave bond and taken the oath Required by Law."

Tavern rates for man and horse for night \$1.50, Single diet for man .25, Single feed for horse .25, Brandy pr. Gallon \$6.00, Half Gal. \$3.00, Quart \$1.50, Pint .75, Pr. Drink. 20, Whiskey Pr. Gallon \$4.00, Half Gal. \$2.00, Quart \$1.00, Pint .50, Pr. Drink .15, Bedding per night .15. The above is the rate of S. R. Brashears

Tavern for the ensuing year ending Nov. 1867.

### MOTHERING PAYS

Some interesting facts determined by the Cornelian Corner as revealed by Dr. John M. Dorsey, professor of Psychiatry at Wayne University School of Medicine, Detroit, Mich. One article reveals that, during the war, 41 percent of the inductees from the city, and 51 percent of the inductees from the rural areas, were found unsuitable for military service. "An appreciable percentage of this unsuitability stemmed in personality disorders which had their origin in early childhood. In addition, at one time during the hostilities, when combat infantry men were in dire demand, 1000 persons a day were being discharged from the military because emotional disorders rendered them unserviceable."

One article states that two groups of six year old children were analyzed. Half of them had spent the greater part of their infancy in institutions and the rest in boarding homes. Those who had been in institutions showed a much higher percentage "of overly anxious and aggressive behavior." Evidently children suffer when they lack "mothering."

### IN AMERICA EVERYONE A CITIZEN

In the U. S. all natives are citizens instead of subjects, with the right of freedom of speech, choice to vote or to choose a job, or to own or cultivate land, and freedom to worship God according to the dictates of ones own conscience. In some of the European Countries and particularly Russia, one of our Allies in World War II is it said that a Russian subject may not own land; may not be tried by a jury; may not choose his own job; may not absent himself from work; may not strike; may not picket; may not employ labor; may not travel; may not own jewelry; may not ring a church bell; may not be friends with a foreigner; and is forbidden freedom of speech; freedom of assembly; freedom of religion and freedom of soul.

### KING COAL

Letcher County abounds in coal deposits. Coal was but little used in Letcher prior to 1910. The Consolidation Coal Co. has had much and possibly more to do with the development of the coal industry, and other economical development than any other company in the county. Aside from its use as producing heat, coal is the base for hundreds of other products.

Among the many other products are Coke, Coke dust, Coke breeze, Gas, Tar, Benjol, Naphtha, Naphthalene, Creosote, Carbolic Acid, Anthracene, Heavy oils, Concentrated Ammonia, Ammonia Sulphate, Nylon, and Nylon products, Plastics and more than two hundred drugs.

In 1942 there were more than 580,000,000 Tons of Bituminous Coal mined.

Daniel Boone moved from Kentucky to Missouri in 1812, at the age of 78, and died 8 years thereafter.

Doctor: When did you first suspect your husband was not mentally alright?

Wife: When he shook the hall tree and began feeling around on the floor for apples.

"We lose vigor through thinking continually the same thoughts, new thought is new life."

—Prentice Mulford





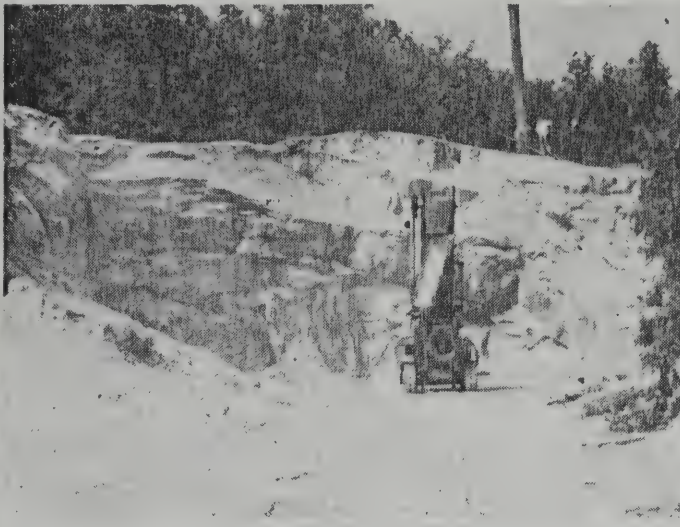


Photo by Cooner, Hazard, Ky.

Unusual formation of white sand at the top of Pine Mountain. This sand is of excellent quality for building purposes.

### THE GROWTH OF LABOR ORGANIZATION

The Pyramids of Egypt were built by a form of slave labor. No choice as to the number of hours they spent. The pay was the pittance which the King chose to pay them. Slavery in general had its origin in military conquest. Instead of putting captives to death the conquerors put them to work. Among Greeks and Romans, and in other lands where slavery existed, manual work of any kind, although done by free citizens, was not looked upon as a dignified occupation. In the middle ages in Europe, slavery had given away to serfdom. Serfdom is derived from the Latin word *serf*, which meant servant or slave. A serf had some rights. He belonged to the serf or manor, but could not be sold off. They were not free to choose where they work and had no bargaining power with their Lords.

Farming of course, was the work of the majority of the people and hence the making of articles, clothing, etc., began in the homes. Then followed the crafts and the guilds, and the apprenticing of children. Next after the apprentice came the journeyman, and then since the journeyman received wages and could save some money, often he was able to set up his own craft or guild and become a craftsman. The Artisan's shop was in his home and the apprentice or craftsman then worked with their master craftsman.

In the 14th Century the Black Death, a terrible scourge, swept England and the Continent, and almost half the population of England died, a shortage of labor existed. In 1351 the first Statute of laborers was enacted in England. Other labor laws followed and serfdom gradually passed and laborers received wages instead of a share of what was produced. Toward the end of the 18th Century many inventions ushered in industrial revolution. Industry moved from the homes into the factories. When machines were first introduced the workmen feared they would destroy their jobs, and often resorted to sabotage. The word comes from the word *Sabot*, the French word for wooden shoes. Belgian workers threw wooden shoes into the machines to destroy them.

In 1776 Adam Smith, A Scotch Professor of Political Economy, published his book, "Inquiry Into the Wealth of the Nations." He argued that, "the government

should not interfere with the economic activity of the citizen and that the natural laws of supply and demand served social welfare better than artificial controls imposed by the government."

As to labor it was held that the employer should be free to hire whomever he pleased and at what ever wages and under whatever conditions he could attract workers, likewise the worker was entirely free to change jobs at will, and to bargain for the best wages he could get, Government was to take no hand in employer-employee relations.

There were some organization among workers as early as 1790 in America, carpenters, shoemakers, tailors and typographers. The National Labor Union was founded in 1866 in Baltimore, the Knights of Labor in 1869, and the American Federation of Labor in 1886. The United Mine Workers in 1890 (Affiliate of A.F.L.) and the C. I. O. in 1937. The Brotherhood of Locomotive in 1863.

There is a conspiracy of labor, capital and state to deny enterprise its reward:

1. The State takes it away in high taxation.
2. Trade unions say, by definition, all economic progress is labor-saving; yet the attitude of trade unions, successively maintained, is that they will permit labor-saving devices, only provided that they do not save labor.
3. The attitude of organized capital is not any better . . .

Trade associations movement has had great success in building up a code of industrial good manners which puts any attempt to reduce costs and prices by greater skill and enterprise under a ban of destructive competition. An industrialist who discovers a way of making better things more cheaply, is deprived by the state of all pecuniary returns and by his own colleagues of any social reward.

No one would deny either the principle or the practice of Social Security. But the more comprehensive the protection the higher the benefits, the less is the urge to stay in employment or to seek it when it is lost. Growth of Trade Association, price fixing, and market sharing devices are inspired by nothing so much as to prevent the Bankruptcy of the inefficient. The whole process is to aid the inefficient and thereby impede the progress of the efficient.

The editor of the London Economist says, "The typical British industrialist does not buy a new piece of machinery until he is assured by his accountants that the reductions in costs that it will make possible, will be enough to pay not merely its own capital costs but also the unpredicated portion of the original costs of the old machine it is replacing. And as that desirable state of affairs can rarely be attained, the business man rarely keeps his business equipment up to date, finding it easier to look to his trade association to insure him a fair share of the business-market at prices sufficient to cover his unrationalized costs. But in a competitive economy, such as the American, when one firm acquires a more efficient machine and cuts prices, all others are compelled to follow suit, whether they can afford it or not. It may be unsound financially, but it is technically progressive, and it is certainly not a coincidence that the years in which the British Industry has fallen behind in its technical methods were the years in which the industry and the state conspired to suppress competition."





## PINE MOUNTAIN RESORT

Whitesburg, Ky.

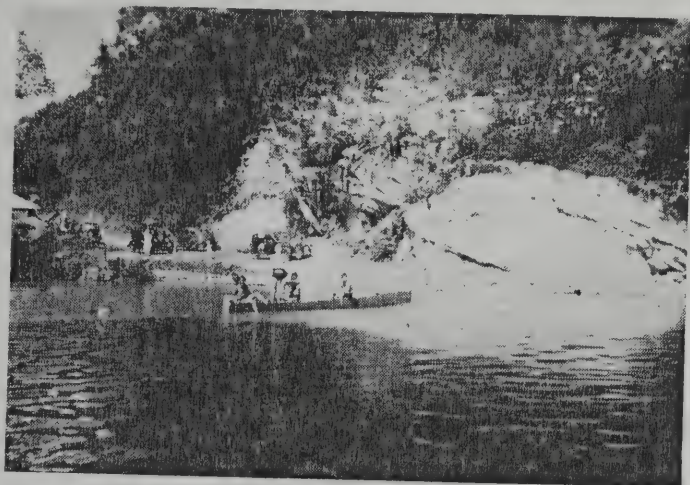


Photo by Manies, Neon, Ky.

Boating on lake atop Pine Mountain.

### LAND OF THE LONESOME PINE

For five breath-taking miles you roll up and up and up, along the broad black ribbon of the Rhododendron Highway, to reach the PINE MOUNTAIN RESORT.

The world falls away from you. Valleys unfold their soft bosoms to your view, lush with timbered slopes and the patch work of tasseling corn fields. The fragrance of a pine scented atmosphere fills your lungs . . . and you notice, suddenly, that you have risen above the tops of the lesser mountains. Only the venerable crest of Old Pine lies between you and the drifting clouds.

You are here for a vacation, a week end, or a Sunday picnic. You want to wander along sylvan mountain trails with cool breezes caressing your body. You want to relax, be happy and carefree, to forget your troubles and have fun.

Rest assured. PINE MOUNTAIN RESORT was designed for you.



MR. G. D. POLLY

George Dewey Polly seeing the need for a playground and place of entertainment in Letcher Co. has amply met this need by developing, the Pine Mountain resort.

Even the air at this lofty perch is like heady wine. You can feel the freshness of it surging through your veins. You can hear it whispering through the trees like the distant fluting of some ancient melody . . . softly mysterious and soothing to jaded nerves. It puts life into your being.

This, also, is a storied land. Never can the distant throbbing of a loaded coal train drown the whispered

stride of Daniel Boone stalking the backbone of these ridges; nor disperse the plaintive lay of an evening whip-or-will coming up from the wooded depths.

For this is the land and the people immortalized by John Fox in his "TRAIL OF THE LONESOME PINE." It is also the land of "THE LITTLE SHEPHERD OF KINGDOM COME" and "THE KNIGHTS OF THE CUMBERLAND." Here it was that John Fox met the unforgettable characters that move so lustily through every written page of his works.

It is the land of the keen throated dulcimer and the sobbing fiddle . . . of golden sunsets and mountain tops rising in majesty above fog-choked valley . . . a land of strange contrasts, keeping step with the trend of modern industry, yet retaining hidden sanctuaries so strongly flavored with the quaint customs of a by-gone age that they seem eternal and priceless jewels.

It was the desire to perpetuate this aura of a fading era, to make its picturesqueness available to the thousands who hold its memory close to their hearts, that prompted the late Vincent Sergent to undertake the development of the PINE MOUNTAIN RESORT. It was a task that he did not live to finish.

To Dewey Polly, a man actuated by the same motives, fell the job of pushing the idea toward completion. And it is no small task to which Dewey Polly has set his hand. It is one that requires a tremendous outlay of energy and cash . . . and one that is moving steadily toward the vision that Dewey Polly holds in his heart.

Sitting squarely atop Old Pine Mountain, the RESORT HOTEL, recently renovated and enlarged, is today one of the very best lodging houses in Eastern Kentucky. Here, if anywhere, one can get a perfect night's rest. The rooms are airy and clean, warmed by steam heat during the winter months, cooled by fragrant mountain breezes in summer. There is none of the disturbing hall-way and street noises common to most hotels. It is, indeed, a pleasure to spend the night here.

And yet the RESORT is only a few minutes drive from several towns. Whitesburg, on the Kentucky River side of the mountain, is only six miles away. Cumberland, Lynch and Benham, in the Cumberland area, lie within a few minutes drive. Telephone accomodation is also offered by the hotel, for those who wish to keep in touch with family or business interests.

In the big log lodge, which is an annex to the hotel proper, is a room designed for private parties, club and lodge meetings, guest dancing and semi-private dining. Meals are served impromptu at any hour during the day, but special arrangement should be made for large parties. The RESORT maintains, also, several log cabins for family or individual service.

Another of the features of the PINE MOUNTAIN RESORT is EAGLE VIEW LAKE, lying just under the hilltop. It was recently built by Dewey Polly, and offers excellent bathing and boating facilities during the summer months. In the winter its clear, hard surface, frozen solidly and safely, makes it a splendid table for ice skating or hockey. EAGLE VIEW LAKE is an acre and a half in area.

Trails have been laid out around the mountains, and at various points games have been provided for. Every point of scenic beauty has been made accessible, and those of historic interest will be pointed out by employees of the RESORT.





Chief points of interest that lie within easy walking or driving distance are catalogued as follows:

**HIGH ROCK**, atop Pine Mountain. The highest point in the state of Kentucky whose mountain range lies wholly within the state.

**LITTLE MAMMOTH CAVE** and associate caverns, eight in all. Located on Line Fork, about forty-five minutes drive from the Resort. Huge, undeveloped caverns of historic interest that twist for unknown miles back into the bulk of the hills. Have many levels and waterfalls, also superb formations of stalactites and stalagmites.

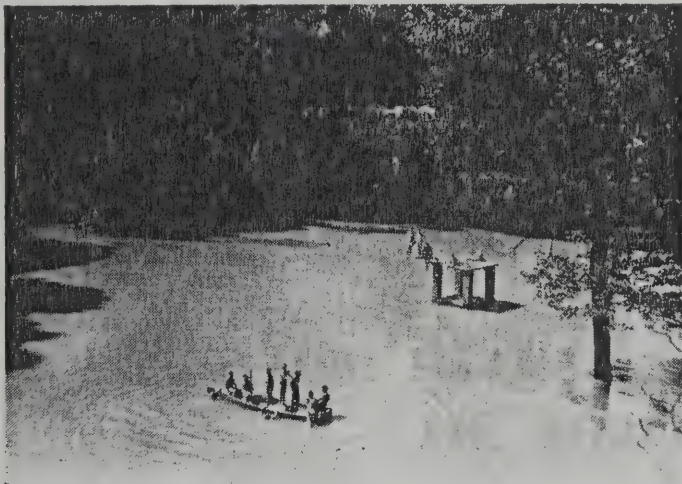
The largest of these caverns, Little Mammoth, was used during the Civil War as a hideout in which to manufacture gun powder. The existence of saltpetre in this cave, which is essential to the manufacture of powder, was, of course, a valuable asset. Many of the old implements used are still in the cave.

**NED'S OLD ROCK HOUSE**, atop Pine Mountain. A unique formation that was used during the Civil War as a hideout and lookout point by an old man known simply as Ned.

**THE BULL HOLE**, atop Pine Mountain. A bottomless hole strongly associated with local legends.

**THREE LAKES**, atop Pine Mountain. Some odd quirk of nature formed these lakes on the very top of the mountain. The largest, during the wet season, is approximately one hundred by fifty yards in area.

**RAINBOW ROCK**, atop Pine Mountain. A strange formation of the natural bridge type. About twenty-five feet in arch.



Crowds come from far and near to enjoy swimming and boating on top of Pine Mountain.

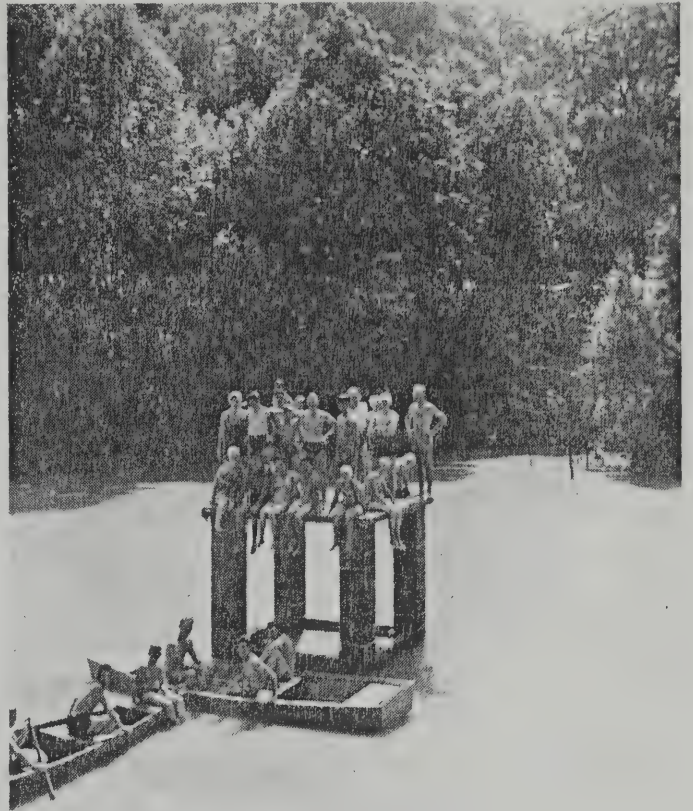
**BAD BRANCH FALLS**, on the Cumberland side of Pine Mountain. Plunging for a distance of about one hundred and sixty-five feet in two stages, these falls are very beautiful.

**INDIAN CLIFFS**, atop Pine Mountain. Long before the coming of the white man, these smoked cliffs were used by various Indian tribes as a look-out or camping ground.

**SEVEN SPRINGS**, on Pine Mountain near Bad Branch Falls. Seven distinct kinds of water bubble up from these clear, mountain springs, all within a very small area.

**RANGER LOOKOUT TOWER**, atop Pine Mountain. Fifteen minutes walk from the RESORT HOTEL. The

Photos on this page by Manies, Neon, Ky.



This lake is equipped with dining pavillion, bath house and other conveniences.

best spot on the mountain from which to view the unfolding beauty of the hill country.

**TRAIL OF THE LONESOME PINE**, beginning at Jenkins and winding across hills and down into valleys toward its terminus in Virginia. About thirty minutes drive from the Resort. This trail was immortalized both in literature and by motion picture. It knew the tread of that stalwart figure, "The Tall Sycamore of the Elkhorns," "Devil" John Wright. Here it was that Red Fox, John Hale and June Tolliver made romantic

(Continued to Following Page)



Mr. Polly's Cabin adjoining lake atop Pine Mountain.

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### Pine Mountain Resort

and actual history in the vivid stories of the Cumberlands that fell from the pen of John Fox.

There are, of course, many other points of interest that lie within short driving range of the PINE MOUNTAIN RESORT. But for sheer, unadulterated beauty, for magnificent vistas and breath-taking heights, the view from the rugged crest of Old Pine Mountain is unsurpassed.

And the recent development of the PINE MOUNTAIN RESORT by Dewey Polly makes all this available to the thousands who hold in their hearts a cherished affection for these kindly old hills that roll, ridge upon ridge, into the deep haze of the far blue yonder.

### Letcher County History

(Continued from Page 45)

sion of \$88.00 per annum, at the Agency in Danville, State of Kentucky, and who resided in the County of Letcher and Perry and of Kentucky. She further declares that she was married to the said Simeon Jestice the day of Sept. 1834, that his husband the aforesaid Simeon Jestice died on the 15th of January, 1845; that she was a widow at the passage of the Act and is still a widow and that she has never before made application for a pension.

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written before me Green Adams, Judge of the 12th District of Ky. and state and Judge of the Letcher Circuit Court."

There are but few orders entered during the period of the Civil War.

At the 4th day of the May Term, 1854, order entered approving claims and ordering them to be paid at the rate of 50c per head or scalp for 31 wild cats.

At the September Term, 1856 of the Letcher Circuit Court, Judge Granville Pearl, produced his Commission as Judge of the 12th Judicial District, signed by Charles S. Morehead, Gov. of Ky.

John Dishman, produced his Commission as Commonwealth Attorney. Both Commissions entered of record, on the order book.

Benjamin Webb was Sheriff of Letcher County at this time.

A rather unusual thing seems to have occurred in Circuit Court in that the Clerk of the Court not only failed but probably refused to write up the orders of the Court. At the 3rd day of the October Term, 1860, (O.B. —B— page 478) the orders were signed by Granville Pearl, Judge. Orders for the 4th day ending on page 482 are not signed. Only a memoranda of the orders and motions for the 4th day of the October Term, 1860, are entered in Order Book A-2 page 129 to 137. At the May Term, 1861, (O.B. A-2; page 138) Judge Granville Pearl was presiding. No orders or Judgments, etc. were entered regularly but were more of a "Steps" book or notations, made from page 129 to page 152. On page 152 of said Order Book at the May Term, 1861, Wednesday morning, May 8th, appears the following order: "It is ordered by the Court that Ezekiel Brashear, Clerk of this Court be fined Twenty Dollars for failing and refusing to make up the orders of this Court in conformity with the law."

The record of Orders, Judgments, etc. of the Court are very poorly prepared or entered, being little more than notations, from page 152 to page 172 of said Order Book.

At the top of page 172 immediately following the convening order of the Court for the October Term, 1865 (The last previous orders or notations having been made at the May Term, 1861 — The Civil War appears to have interrupted Court), appears the following order:

"It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that there was a vacancy in the office of Circuit Court Clerk for the county, It is, therefore, order that Isaac Fields be and he is appointed Circuit Court Clerk for the time being, whereupon he executed bond, etc."

Inspite of the carelessness and negligence of Ezekiel Brashear as Clerk of the Letcher Circuit Court, it does not appear that any action was taken against him or his bondsmen for such failure.

Lisby Johnson was the Sheriff of the County in 1866 as evidenced by order showing that he took the oath required of him in order to summon the Jury. The last orders entered in Order Book A-2 were entered at the May Term, 1867. There has been cut from this book with a knife or other sharp edged instrument about 75 pages.

At the October Term, 1865, at page 35 of Order Book B, the following order is entered: "On motion of H. F. Finley, it is ordered that a writ of Election issue for the Election of a Circuit Court Clerk to fill the vacancy and unexpired term of A. D. Hale, former Circuit Court Clerk, to take place the first Monday in August, 1866., etc."

Oct. Term, 1865

Wednesday Morning, Oct. 4th (Order Book No. B 2 page 36) we find the following order entered in the case of Commonwealth, Plaintiff vs. James F....., Defendant.

"The prisoner, James F....., being brought into court and allowed bail for his appearance in this court on the first day of the next term, and the Letcher County Jail being destroyed by the armies and not having any jail to commit said F..... to and the nearest safe jail is in the County of Pike, it is therefore, ordered, etc."

The foregoing order would indicate that either the Union or Rebel soldiers or both destroyed the Letcher County jail. One or the other must have placed soldiers of the other in the jail and the friends of those incarcerated came along and liberated their fellow soldiers and destroyed the jail.

The following order was entered at a Special Term of the County Court 1867. "It is hereby certified that Ezekiel Brashear, a citizen of this county is Gentleman of honesty, Proberty, and good demeanor."

There are several orders entered at the June Term, 1867, allowing different men pay for services in guarding Wesley C. Taylor. Copy of one such order as follows: "County of Letcher, Dr. to James Williams, Cr. to Guarding Wesley C. Taylor in Letcher Jail charged with murder. 1 day \$1.50."

June Term, 1868. "Ordered by the Court that the road from the mouth of Cowan to the gap at the head of Kings Creek at R. H. Fields House be disannuled."

"Ordered that the mark of Joseph Day be entered upon record. Said mark to consist of Swalofork in Right ear and under bit in same and smooth crop of the left ear."

Many men had their particular mark on their live stock, particularly their hogs, sheep and cattle. As we

(Continued to Page 52)





**REEDY'S PLUMBING AND HEATING CO., INC.**

Whitesburg — Phone 198



Mr. and Mrs. Reedy and Family

**THE OLD OAKEN BUCKET**

It was just a little mountain spring, fed by sparkling waters that trickled slowly from a ledge of moss covered rock. Over it stood a mass of privet, or perhaps a trellis of wild honeysuckle, that shaded it on a hot summer day. But from it came the sweetest water in all the world . . . especially when gulped from an ancient gourd, one that has been time-ripened and weather-cured to smell like lynn honey or winter apples.

You stood for a moment beside the little spring, breathing into your lungs the fragrance of wild honeysuckle, letting that sweetest of drinks cool your summer-hot body, then you bent and gently dipped the gourd again into the spring water. Again and again you refilled the old gourd, each time emptying it into the old wooden bucket that you had brought out from the house. You had to "fetch" your water in those good old days . . . remember?

And they were the "good old days." Romance was in the very air, in the dry rustle of an autumn fodder shock, in the evening song of a whip-orwill. But things were also mighty inconvenient.

Sometimes that old spring was near the house; then again you might have to "fetch" your water for a good quarter-mile. In the heat of a long summer day the water in your old oaken bucket soon lost its freshness, tasted like tepid dishwater. And in winter, when icy gales whipped down the valleys and froze the bare limbs of the tall sycamores to stately brittleness, water would very quickly become a block of solid ice.

But things have changed today. Now all you have to do to get a good, cool drink of water is turn a tap, or open the door to your modern refrigerator and lift out the water bottle. If properly installed, your plumbing system should be worry-free . . . no freezing in winter . . . no drouths in summer.

Today that ancient gourd is hanging untouched in a few dusty shrines scattered throughout the county. REEDY'S LITTLE PLUMBER has replaced the old time

water boy, supplying modern, sanitary and convenient plumbing service to the citizens of Letcher County and surrounding territory.

When H. B. Reedy opened the doors to his small shop in the summer of 1945 in Whitesburg, he had little idea how his business would prosper and expand. There was great need of just such an establishment in Letcher County, it is true, but REEDY'S PLUMBING AND HEATING COMPANY, INC. has grown faster than anyone could have hoped.

Phenomenal . . . that is the only word that fully expresses this astonishing growth. For the service offered by REEDY'S PLUMBING AND HEATING is no longer confined to Letcher County. Citizens of Letcher, Knott, Perry . . . and even across the state line into Virginia . . . have been demanding their services. They have done jobs in each of the above counties, with prospects in other counties angling.

But such a growth is not without reason . . . three reasons, to be exact. The first is H. B. Reedy, the founder, whose years of experience in all types of plumbing and heating enables him to estimate and install work that affords satisfaction. Mr. Reedy, a son of Emery Reedy of Amburgey in Knott County, held some very important supervisory jobs during the war in various government war industries.

The second reason for REEDY'S PLUMBING AND HEATING success lies in Mr. Reedy's second partner, Marvin Collins, who joined forces with the concern shortly after its inception. By his industry and understanding of the problems that arise in the actual installation of the various jobs which he has tackled, Mr. Collins has made himself indispensable to REEDY'S PLUMBING AND HEATING.

The third reason . . . but by no means the least . . . for the rapid growth of REEDY'S PLUMBING AND HEATING is Kirby Ison. Mr. Ison was the last of the three owners to take stock in the then struggling business. On January the 14th, 1946 Kirby Ison became a partner, only a few months after the concern was established. And he brought with him into the business a very valuable asset . . . a host of friends from all parts of the county and a solid business background.

For in addition to being a business man, Kirby Ison is an Elder in the Regular Baptist Church, attending meetings, preaching regularly in the Association Churches, and coping with the various other demands that this labor of love calls for.

Knowing this trio of men, these still young men who have formed the Incorporation that is now known as REEDY'S PLUMBING AND HEATING COMPANY, it is not hard to understand their success. Nor is it hard to predict a future growing stronger with continued success and service.

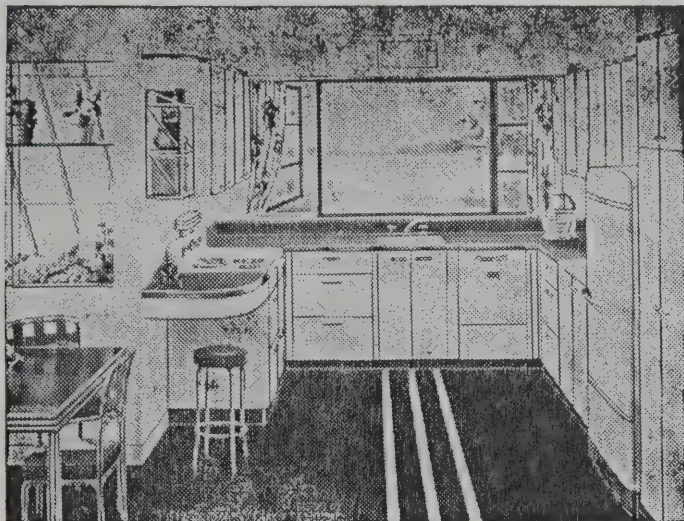
The firm is erecting in Whitesburg, Ky., new and spacious quarters. In this beautiful new home Reedy's will continue to offer the same service— PLUMBING AND HEATING — FURNITURE-ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES— WASHING MACHINES— SMALL HARDWARE AND A JEWELRY DEPARTMENT. This new home of Reedy's, constructed of brick and concrete blocks, offers plenty display room and is an excellent addition for Letcher County's trend toward modernization.

REMEMBER REEDY'S . . . PHONE 198. Whitesburg, Ky.





## CONSUMER'S ELECTRIC STORE East Jenkins, Ky.



"AC-DC"

Several centuries before the birth of Christ men began experimenting with electricity, but it was not until 1800, when Volta found that it could be generated by man, that any real development began. Experiment after experiment followed, and by the year 1845 a patent was secured on the first arc light. By 1862 electric lights were being used in England. Edison invented the first incandescent lamp in 1877.

Men, by this time, had learned much about it. They had begun to tame it, to harness it for use. The first generating station in the United States was erected in 1883 and electric power was soon being absorbed in enormously increasing quantities by the public. Today, in every modern community, it plays an indispensable role. Practically no sphere of human endeavor is left unimproved by it.

The Consumer's Electric Store, of East Jenkins, has recognized the importance of this vast field. Its shelves and floors are stocked with the most modern of electrical supplies . . . every thing from Crosly Refrigerators to complete kitchens . . . from light bulbs to electric stoves.

T. V. Bumgardner is the founder and manager, and is himself a competent electrician. He also offers a repair and contract service to the public.

### Letcher County History (Continued from Page 50)

know at that time, the forests were vast and the rail fencing expensive and laborious to build, and much stock ran outside,— "On the range." By these marks one could easily identify stock. In some instances, however, some enterprising man without a sense of honesty would go much beyond the conduct of a gentleman and change the mark on some other person's stock to his own mark, and thus lay claim to the stock whose marks he had mutilated. To prevent such acts, severe penalty was imposed by the law.

"Ordered by the Court that Phillip W. Hall and J. M. Fields have Fifty Thousand acres of the vacant land of Letcher County, they have paid into court the sum of Twelve Hundred and Fifty Dollars, to be issued in Two Hundred Acres Land Warrants."

1000 acres issued to Johnathan Richmond, 1600 acres to William Nickles, 10,000 acres to W. M. Nickles

and Kelly Hogg, and 10,000 acres to William H. Nickles Sept. Term 1866

"Ordered that the County Court Clerk be allowed for the procuring of a County Seal and that he be allowed Two Dollars as freight on said Seal Conveyance to Whitesburg."

Nov. Term, 1867. "Ordered that Isaac Fields, Clerk of the Letcher Circuit Court, be allowed fifteen Dollars for copying and certifying wild cat and fox Scalps to the Auditor. \$15.00."

Special Term Nov. 6th, 1876. "Ordered by the Court that Henry Polly, Jailer of Letcher County, be and he is hereby ordered and directed to place the Ball and Chain on James Donaldson, a prisoner in the county jail, and to forthwith discharge the jail guard."

February Term, 1867 OB 1, p. 124. "On motion of Samuel Francis, This day I set Marinda Francis free to act and do for herself. I am not accountable for none of her acts, and deeds. She is her own Guardian. Given under my hand this 1st day of June 1867. Samuel Francis."

March Term 1868

Election ordered— "It appeering to the satisfaction of the Court that there has been no election held for the election of Trustees of the town of Whitesburg, Ordered by the Court that the following persons be appointed Trustees of the Town of Whitesburg until the next regular election, to wit: Solomon Yontz, J. R. Mann, James B. Fitzpatrick, James E. Sarver and Jonathan Richmond, whom appeared in open Court and took the oath prescribed by law."

"Ordered by the Court that upon John L. Day paying unto the Judge of its county Court two dollars and fifty cents, he have one hundred land warrant in one or more survey."

"Ordered that John N. Craft be allowed Ten Dollars in Land Warrants for the making of a bridge near Joel Wrights on the Road across a certain hollow No. 123."

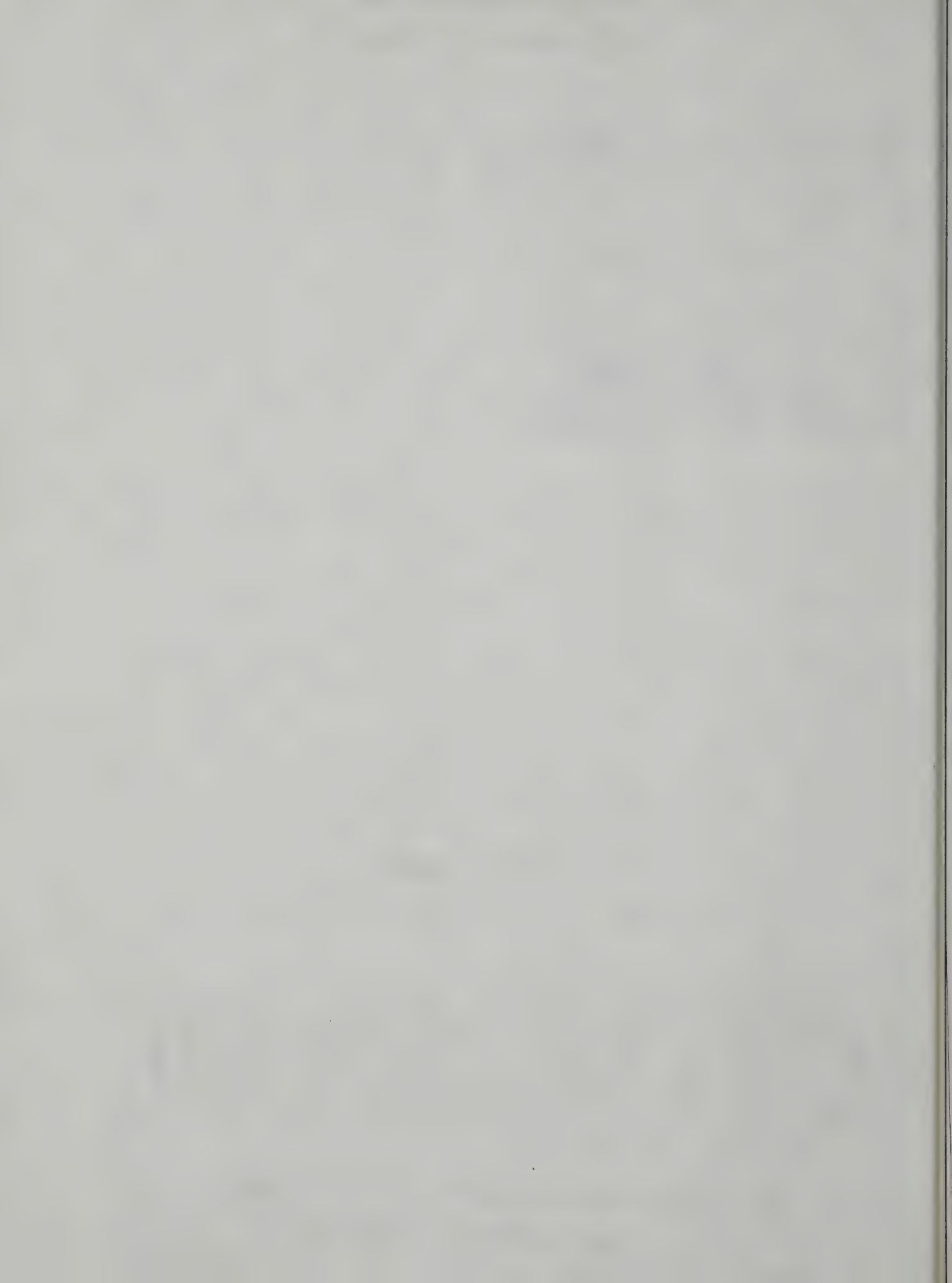
Jan. Term, 1869. "On motion of Clark Cornett, ordered that Clark Cornett be allowed Two Hundred acre Land Warrant to lay on any unappropriated land of Letcher County. No. 129."

Things drifted along in Letcher County rather uneventful, the residents having some family feuds, and their differences, particularly immediately after the Civil War, just as most all other counties in this and other states, often were settled at the point of a high powered rifle or ended in mob violence. Right after the war there were considerable indictments between the two factions sympathizing with the north or south and particularly under some of the strenuous laws that were enacted to deal with the war times, and it is said that a group came down upon the courthouse and took many of the order books and records and piled them up in front of the courthouse and burned them. I take it that accounts for the fact that the first county court orders begin around 1866, instead of 1842.

The residents of the county lived by hunting, fishing, farming and lumbering and rearing live stock for the market, and for the most part, raising their own vegetables, corn, wheat and other products, including sheep for wool. Some flax was grown. Roads were poor and not much way out to the open market.

### Building of Railroads

The first days of progressive light broke into Letcher





County and into the deep recesses of the Eastern Ky. mountains when in 1909 the L. & N. R.R. Co. started to build its L. & E. Branch up the North Fork from Jackson; and in 1911 when the Sandy Valley RR headed for Jenkins up Elkhorn Creek. Already the big coal fields of the eastern part of the state had been advertised to the world. At this time and before, the richest and best coal areas of the county had passed into the hands of large corporations and only needed outlets for this product to reach the markets of the world. Both these Railroads saw an opportunity and expended vast sums of money to penetrate the heart of the coal regions. From that time forward the hand of progress has been vigilantly at work. Cities like Jenkins, McRoberts, Fleming, etc., sprang up over night and thousands of men were put to work,—in a new industry to the natives.

Letcher county was transformed from a semi-productive farming section into a business and progressive one. Millions of dollars worth of black diamonds have passed from the county to warm the hearthstones and inspire the factories into action. As the progressive skies were brightening over on the North Fork, progress was taking shape on a magnificent scale over the Elkhorn section of the county.

The best financial brains in the world were hewing, cutting, and building Jenkins. The S.V.R.R. was rushing its lines into this, the biggest golden area in the world. Mountains of coal were being mined while the city was in the building and soon tons of the county's riches were whirling to foreign ports to light and vitalize the earth.

In 1875 there were only five post offices in what are now Letcher and Knott counties. These were Whitesburg, Rosedale, Partridge, Rockhouse and McPherson. Rosedale was on the road from the county seat to Wise; Partridge on the route from the county seat to Mount Pleasant (now Harlan); Rockhouse and McPherson (now Hindman) on the way to Hazard. Gordon, Ovenfork, Pinetop and Indian Bottom are the names of some of the oldest post offices in this immediate section. Sometime about 1881-1882, that portion of the county drained by the waters of the Big Sandy was taken from Pike county and annexed to Letcher. About this time a great deal of what is now the territory of Knott county was taken from Letcher county.

There are more people in Letcher county named Adams than any other. There are three distinct and original families by this name. Adam was the first man and Adams led the first families into what is now Letcher county.

In the last twenty-five years Whitesburg, Letcher county and the mountains have made rapid strides in a commercial and social way. Development has brought better schools, good roads, fine churches, magnificent homes and a prosperous and contented people with plenty of money and a will to spend it for the comforts, conveniences and luxuries of life. The Mountain Eagle always in the lead for a better and greater county and community is edited with its encouraging messages, from week to week, year in and year out.

With the progressive population and the many successful businesses in Letcher County, there is a

great need for a daily newspaper in the county. The place is ripe and the need is urgent for a Daily newspaper. And if not a Daily then by all means there should be another weekly paper and job press work. Competition is the life of business and results in a much better service to the public.

### BIND OUT CHILDREN

Many parents and particularly widows bound out their children to some other person to learn a trade, or job. It would seem that the primary purpose in many instances was to give to the child a home. In many instances this procedure worked out to the best advantage to all those concerned. Other times it did not. In some instances the one who took the child to teach the trade to it, was a hard master and made more or less a slave of the child. Those to whom children were bound, however, in many instances did a splendid part by the child by giving it a good home, sufficient clothing and food and a fair education as well as teaching it how to do the various farm work, or chores about the home, teaching it the various duties of Farm life in the Kentucky Mountains. In some instances the parent appears to have had but little to say about the procedure. We find the following order in 1866 entered in the Letcher County Court Orders: "The County Court vs. Clark Cornett and wife. Ordered that R.N.M. Cornett be bound to Eli Hall, whenever the said Hall Complies with the Requisition of the Law. And that Ruth Cornett be bound to Alexander Ingram, by his complying with said Requisition, the said children being the heirs of Clark Cornett and wife. No cause why the same shall not be bound out. Benjamin Craft, P.J.L.C.C."

Also entered at the February Term, 1868, is the following: "Ordered by the Court that Malinda Shoop be notified to appear before the Letcher County Court at its next March Term to show cause why her infant children shall not be bound out." Then at the March Term of Court this order was entered. "Letcher County Court vs. Malinda Shoop. The defendant being duly summoned and failing to attend, it is ordered that June Shoop and Sarah Shoop, infant heirs of said Malinda Shoop, be taken into custody of Joseph Day and be bound as apprentices, and continued as to the others at present."

It was possible, for a separation caused by the above order to have resulted in so widely separating these children that they seldom saw each other. Back at that time when the roads were few and more often than not followed the creek bed, or a path across the mountain, and transportation slow and burdensome, a distance of eight or ten miles, meant seeing each other at very great intervals. Back in the country in such day and time the average persons travels and acquaintances were confined to a radius of only a very few miles,—often five or six miles.

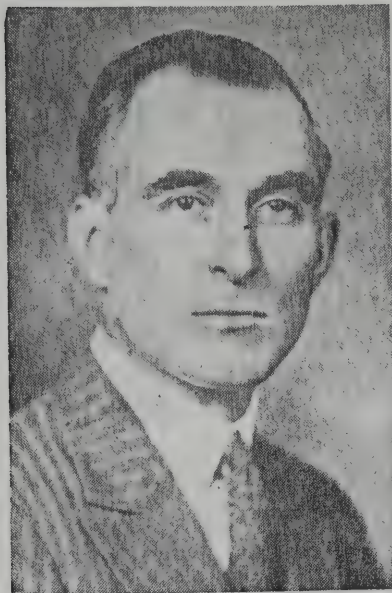
### POOR HOUSES

From the beginning of time, often expressed by the term "Back to the time from whence the memory of man runneth not to the contrary", we have had poor and indigent people, the condition resulting from one cause or another. Long prior to the forming of Letcher

(Continued to Page 56)







C. V. SNAPP, Supt.  
Jenkins, Independent School

### JENKINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL SYSTEM

Long prior to the time when the first white man came across Pine Mountain from Pound, Virginia into Kentucky on the headwaters of Little Elkhorn Creek, the Buffalo, Bear, Deer and other wild animals had beaten a path through the gap, over which the Indian stealthfully sallied forth in search of wild game. Subsequently the whiteman steadfastly traveled over the same path, bringing with him his pack horse, in quest of wild game and adventure in this salubrious climate with such breath-taking surroundings. The Autumn season brought forth such picturesque beauty that the mountains surrounding appeared to be out on Dress Parade. The squirrel, wild cat, horned owl and night hawk alike seemed to catch the spirit and broke the deathlike silence of the night with shrill screams and spooky chatter.

It was here at the foot of the mountain that a wayside Tavern came into existence and for



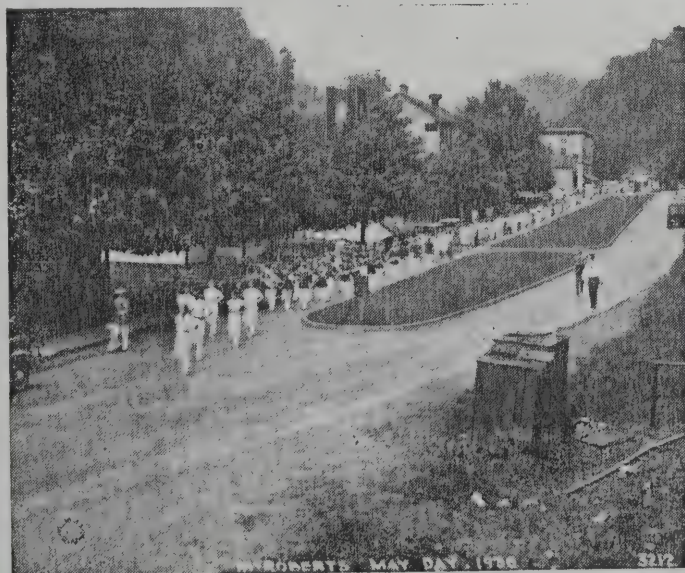
MISS MADONNA SMITH  
Miss Kentucky 1946

years was sought by the weary traveler as an excellent place for rest and refreshments. This Tavern enjoyed a wide reputation and was host to some celebrities of the day. After the road was opened up to travel by horseback and coach, some of the notables from Central Kentucky, sought lodging and food at this Tavern while on their way to and from the Federal City (Washington). There is little doubt that Henry Clay spent the night here.

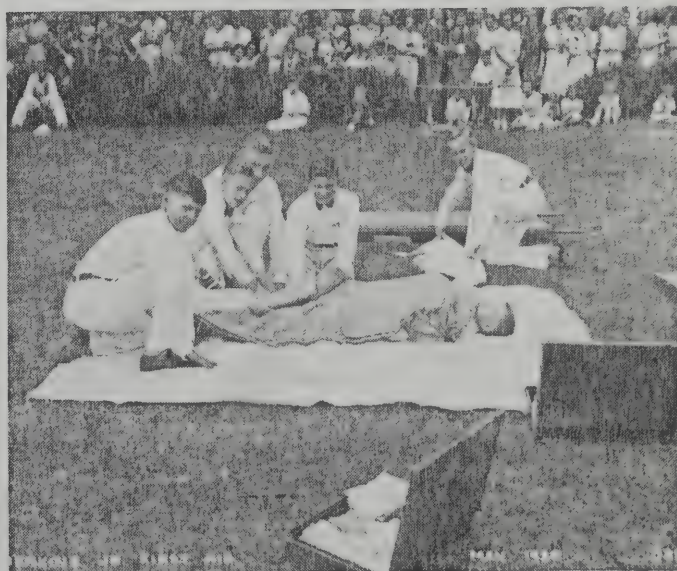
In the early days of the settlement of this section and the rights of settlers began to overreach each other, lawlessness and disorder came into existence and some supercilious characters either grew up or moved into the community, or both. In the years to follow there was considerable lawlessness and bloodshed. It was here that John Wright, the "Tall Sycamore of the Little Elkhorn" earned his name "Bad" John Wright. It is said that he had his own private cemetery for those who fell before his deadly aim. It was here that "Red Fox" lived and brought fear to those around him. Dock

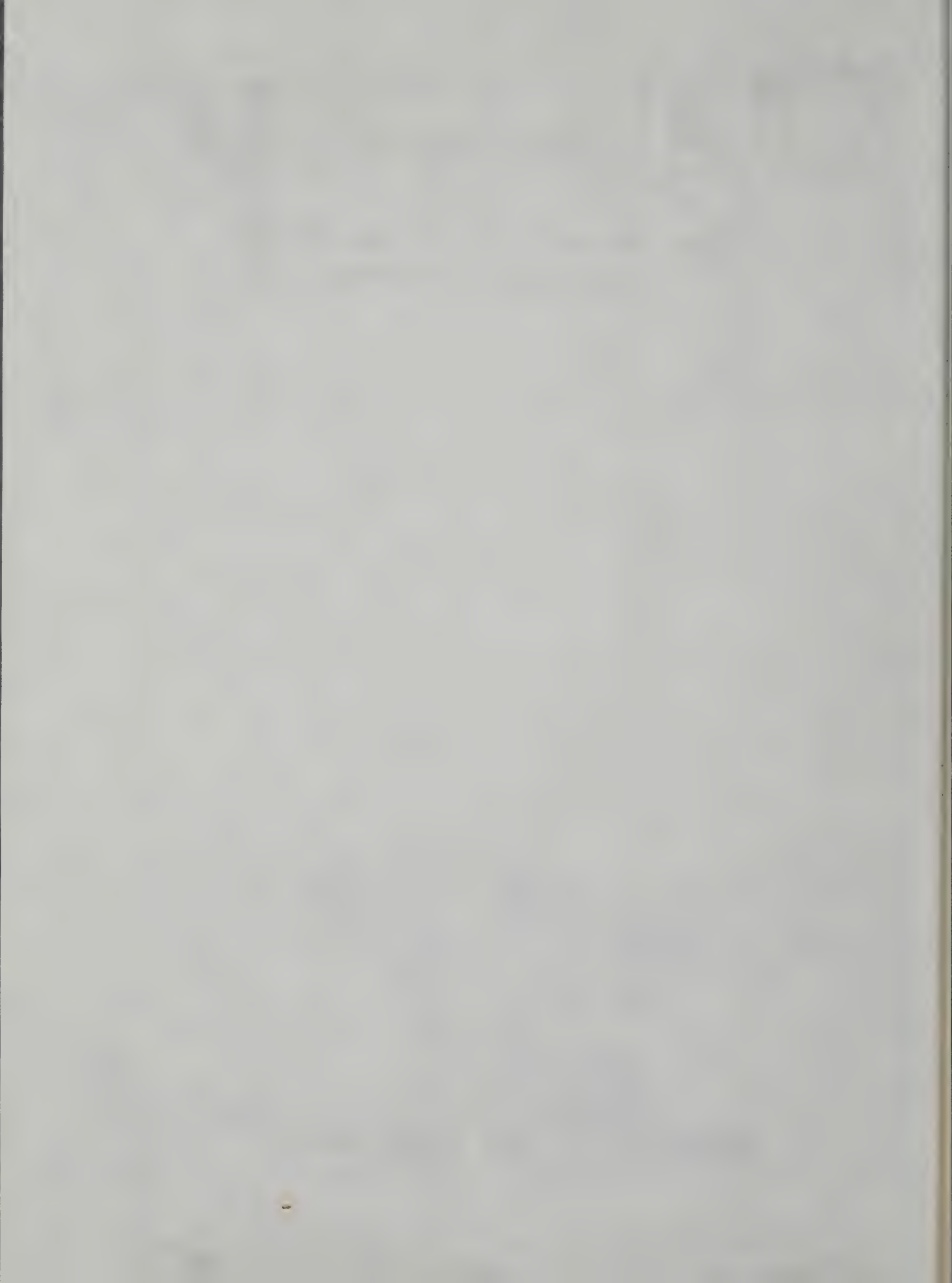
Taylor whom it is said aided in practically exterminating a Mullins family, roamed throughout this section until finally he was overtaken by justice and hanged in Wise, Virginia. It was the scene of much feudin' and shootin'.

Yet all this lawlessness could not go on forever. The March of time moved on and when the Consolidation Coal Company came into the county and began making ready for its vast operations on the Little Elkhorn, law and order began to take root ever increasingly. Many people from all the walks of life and from many sections of the country gathered around. It was necessary that they get along with each other and respect the rights and privileges of one another. The small one room school gave way to a large brick school building and other large school buildings were erected in this same little valley. More and better churches were organized and more elaborate church buildings erected and a tremendously prosperous era was experienced. The lean years following 1929 brought about some



May Day — 1936.







changes and hardships but today this community is again enjoying prosperity with greater changes and improvements.

What is now Jenkins Independent School District was organized as Jenkins Graded School District, August 15, 1912. At that time the district had a pupil census of 490 children. The superintendent for the year 1912-13 had on his staff eight teachers. The district was composed of the three subdivisions of school units of Burdine, Dunham, and Jenkins. McRoberts, then an independent district, did not become a part of the Jenkins System until April 26, 1915. The district is now composed of the four towns of Jenkins, McRoberts, Burdine, and Dunham. The census of June 1946 shows 2,517 children of which 303 are colored and 2,214 are white children.

During the school year closing June 30, 1946, the colored schools enrolled 291 pupils while the white schools enrolled 2,060. The teaching and administrative personnel now numbers fifty-six. This consists of the superintendent of schools, attendance and census officer, seven principals, and forty-seven teachers. The district maintains a four-year high school at Jenkins, fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools since 1932; a six-year high

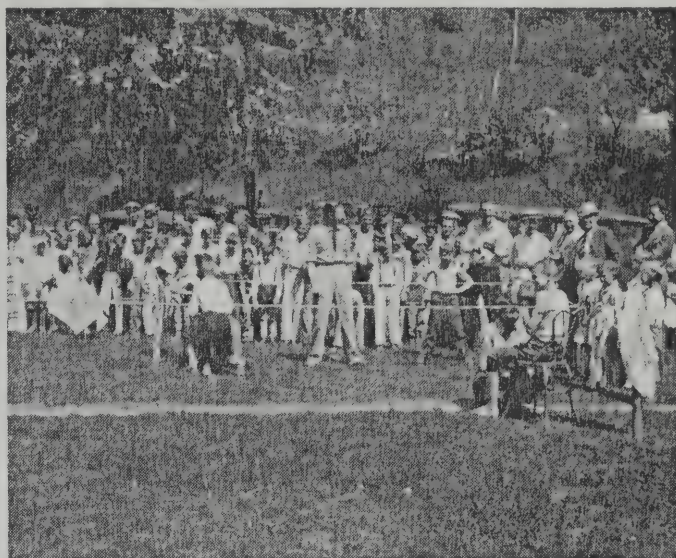


Jenkins Colored School — Blue Ribbon

school for colored children at Jenkins, accredited Class-B by the State of Kentucky; and a Junior High School at McRoberts. The Burdine and Dunham white schools are both elementary, with Burdine offering eight years of work and Dunham six. Elementary schools are also maintained at McRoberts and Jenkins in connection with the high school. Since 1924 all teachers must be College Graduates. In 1931 Works Progress Administration began the erection of a second wing to the Jenkins School Building which wing was completed in due course.

Superintendents who have served the schools to date are:

Sylvester Greer—1912-19  
P. M. Conley—1919-21  
H. L. Donovan—March 5, 1921 to June 30, 1921  
Leon B. Stephan—1921-26  
J. G. Long—1926-1929  
C. V. Snapp—1929-



Dunham School — May Day Boxing

Schools, principals, and teachers for the current year, 1946-47:

Jenkins Elementary and High School—Roger L. Wilson, Principal, John M. Potter, Ass't. Principal — 19 teachers

McRoberts Elementary and Junior High School — Dave L. Craft, Principal, Julia H. Burgess, Ass't. Principal — 10 teachers

Burdine Elementary School — Grover Taylor, Principal with 8 teachers

Dunham Elementary School — Leonard Morgan, Principal with 3 teachers.

Colored Schools — Elementary and High School — G. W. Parks, Principal with 7 teachers.

The school district maintains an excellent system of transportation. No child living within the district is required to walk an unreasonable distance to school. First school Buses used in the County were put in service in 1932 by Jenkins schools.

The district attempts to meet the needs of its people in both the curricular and extra-curricular fields. Be-



High School — Jenkins  
(Continued to Following Page)





### Jenkins Independent School System

sides teaching the regular required courses, the schools offer home economics, music, and commercial subjects. The total cost of the schools for the year 1912-13 was \$4,982.20. The 1946-47 budget calls for the expenditure of \$143,600.48.

Although the teachers are greatly underpaid, their salaries are above the average of similar schools. The highest paid classroom teacher receives \$1,900.20, the lowest paid classroom teacher (emergency teacher) receives \$1,305.00, while the average classroom teacher's salary is \$1,727.00 per annum. The Jenkins High School has eleven teachers and 224 pupils enrolled. The members of the Board of Education are: Carl Fitzpatrick, Chairman, W. A. Jordan, Clarence Smith, Chester Wolf, Forest Williamson, and Mrs. Grace Lyons is Treasurer.

Jenkins Independent School System is very active in all scholastic and athletic events and has taken top honors on several occasions. It has an excellent collection of trophies which are emblematic of its superiority in various events down through the years. This year (1946) one of its outstanding students, Miss Madonna Smith was crowned "Miss Kentucky of 1946" and made an excellent showing in the National Beauty Contest. Under the able Supervision of Mr. C. V. Snapp and cooperation of his corps of teachers this school is sure to go on winning honors. One needs only to look back through the pages of time to see and learn how wisely the members of the Board of Education of this School District have chosen. It is only another repetition of what sincere purpose and untiring effort can accomplish. Let us take off our hats and give to Mr. Snapp and his corps of teachers the honor they have so richly earned.

### Letcher County History

(Continued from Page 53)

County in 1842, there were "Poor Houses" throughout the Kentucky Counties for the care of the aged and indigent. Those who were aged, or infirm without means of support, and without anyone to care for them, became inmates of the "poor house". Some citizen of the county obligated himself to keep the "poor house" and take these old or afflicted persons, and feed, and clothe them and pay for medical service rendered to them and then file his claim before the Court of Claims for allowance. Often the food and clothing item of the expense was offered at public auction to the lowest and best bidder. The medical expense could not be foreseen and a record of this was kept and presented before the Court of Claims. The cost for keeping these old people was surprisingly low, but in many instances these inmates could do some considerable work on a farm or garden, or aid in keeping the home and preparing meals, doing laundry, etc.

This order is of record in Letcher County Court Order Book at the November Term, 1866: "Ordered by the Court that a poor house be established in this county and Clark Cornett be employed to keep said poor house for which the County Court will make him a reasonable allowance at the next Court of Claims." Nov. Term, 1875, "Ordered that H. W. Stamper, Sheriff be directed to offer to the lowest Bidder the paupers of Letcher County, the sale take place at 12 o'clock or thereabout on this day, taking bond with good Security from the under takers and report to this court as Early as possible."

Nov. Term, 1867. "Ordered that David Seargeant be employed to keep the poorhouse of Letcher County for the ensuing year. For each pauper kept by him under order of the County Court, he is to be allowed \$20.00 per year, at the next Court of Claims. Said paupers to be kept at the house of said Seargeant and to be comfortably clothed and fed by him, for all necessary Medical attention to said paupers a reasonable allowance to be made Said Seargeant."

(Continued to Page 63)

### FREEMASONRY

(Taken from Article by Charles Eginton, P. G. M.  
Vol. 1. History of Kentucky by Collins, Page 8)

According to well authenticated tradition, this Order assumed organic form at the time the King of Israel summoned the craftsmen of the valley of Tyre, the bearers of burden, and hewers in the mountain, to assist in building the Temple at Jerusalem.

Masons are all of one mind in regard to their traditional history; and sensibly assume that the son of David was not ignorant of the customs of the nations that preceded or were around him; was well advised in regard to all prevailing mysteries; and could readily see in them a singular unity of design, and recognition of the God of his father.

And when the past and present of Freemasonry is considered, it may with great propriety be asserted, that if Solomon and his colleagues did not originate this Order, then the wisdom of those who did is entitled to the admiration of all the wise and good who have succeeded them.

Masonry is not Religion or a substitute for Religion but recognizes the same Supreme Divinity, makes His Holy Word its own Great Light, and as children of one family gather around the same altar, bend in adoration, and reverence the same parental authority. Faith in God, Hope in Immortality, and Charity towards all mankind, are the principal pillars of the Temple. It declares all the brethren are upon a level, opens wide its doors to all nations, admits of no rank except the priority of merit, and its only aristocracy is the nobility of virtue.

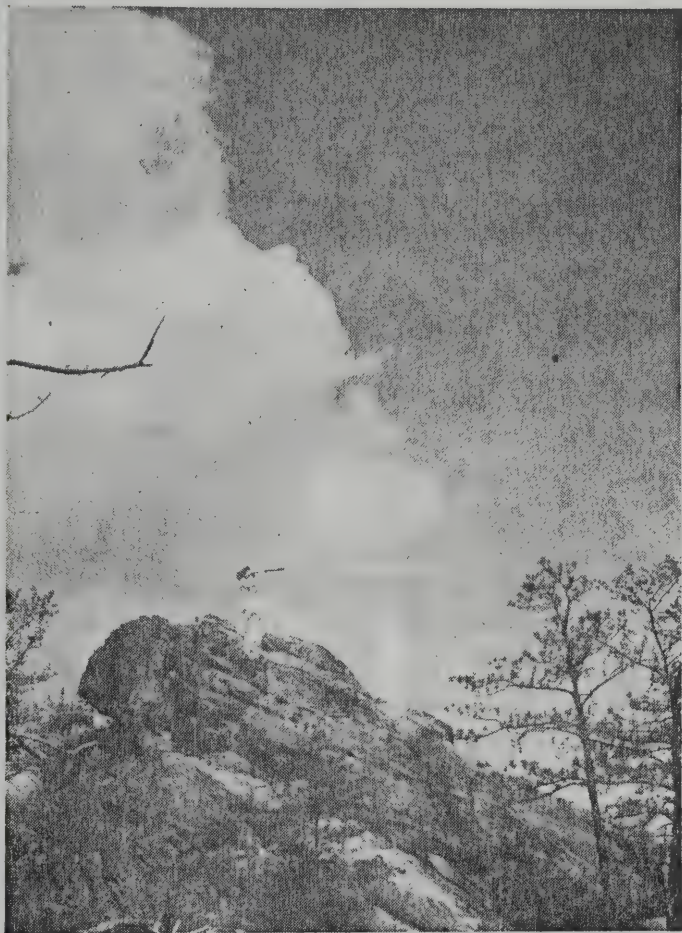
The object and purpose is the same everywhere; and every member — however much he may differ in language or nationality, sectarian attachment or political preference — has the same rights and duties, and is in thorough unity with every Freemason throughout the world. No other mere moral organization possesses the power of which Masonry can boast; none other can effect as much as the Craft in disseminating sunshine and dispelling gloom. Meddling not with politics, interfering not with the affairs of Church or State, it has not suffered the instability of other human institutions.

It is not Religion; but it sympathizes with the Christian when he points to Palestine and joyfully recognizes it as the hallowed land — where God gave to man a revelation of His holy will, with whose people are the endearing memories of the elder dispensation, where the Saviour was born, preached, and died, and from the summit of the mountain ascended unto glory. And whilst admitting that it was in Jerusalem that the fully developed gospel was first proclaimed, there exercised its first great power, and thence started upon its great mission to the world.

Tradition continues its details down to the year 926 when the written history begins, with the charter issued







Raven Rock atop Pine Mountain. From this point Daniel Boone looked down upon this gorgeous hill country. The soldiers during the Civil War used it as a "Look Out Post."

### Freemasonry

by King Athelstan directed to the Master Masons of England, and the convening of a Grand Lodge at York. From that date, Masonry has made an enviable historic record in every nation; and except where proscriptive supremacy reigns, is very general and flourishing.

The first Masonic Lodge in the New World was instituted July 30th, 1733, under a grant from the Earl of Montague, then Grand Master of England. Henry Price was therein designated "Provisional Grand Master of New England and the Dominions and Territories thereunto belonging;" and upon the day designated, the Brethren named assembled "in a secure room of Ye Bunch of Grapes tavern" in Boston, organized, and appointed the necessary officers.

In 1734 Benjamin Franklin published the Masonic Book of Constitutions; and in this year Henry Price was constituted Grand Master over all North America, and established a Lodge in Philadelphia with Benjamin Franklin as first Master.

In 1735 two Lodges were established in Charleston, S. C.

Nov. 4, 1752, George Washington was initiated in Fredericksburg Lodge, Virginia.

June 24, 1769, Joseph Warren (afterwards a Revolutionary general) was created first Provincial Grand Master of Massachusetts; and in 1773, his Patent was enlarged to embrace the Continent of America. That

position did not prevent him from being among the foremost to resist what he justly regarded as the oppression of the ministry of King George and at Bunker Hill, on the 17th of June, 1775, to yield up his life, in behalf of National Freedom. His death dissolved the Grand Lodge over which he had been presiding, but in the succeeding year it was established as the First Independent Lodge in America.

In 1777, Gen. David Wooster, the Provincial Grand Master of Connecticut, was killed whilst battling for Independence.

Saint John's day, 1778, Gen. Washington appeared in a public Masonic procession at Philadelphia, and listened to an oration delivered in Christ Church. In 1793, then the first President of the young Republic, but in his Masonic capacity, arrayed in the paraphernalia of the Craft, and attended by the imposing ceremonies of the Order, he laid the corner-stone of the Capitol at Washington.

Page after page could be filled with interesting Masonic incidents, and the part taken in them by John Marshall, Marquis de La Fayette, and other great and good men; who justly regarded every member of the fraternity as doubly bound to God, his Country, and his Fellowmen. But the steady advance of the Order and its present enviable status are sufficient to attest the purity of purpose that is so surely guiding it to a prosperous future.

The Grand Lodge of Virginia exercised jurisdiction over Kentucky, before and for eight years after the latter was admitted into the Union as a state; and established,

Nov. 17, 1788—Lexington Lodge as No. 25

Nov. 25, 1791—Paris Lodge No. 35

Nov. 29, 1796—Georgetown Lodge No. 46

Subsequently—Abraham Lodge No. U. D.

Upon the 8th of September, 1800, delegates from those Lodges met in convention at Mason's Hall, in Lexington, with John Hawkins, of Georgetown, in the chair, and Thos. Bodley, clerk. Wm. Murray, Alexander MacGregor, Thomas Hughes, Simon Adams, and Samuel Shepherd were appointed a committee to draft an address to the G. L. of Virginia — setting forth the necessity for the establishment of a Grand Lodge in Kentucky, and designated the 16th of October, 1800, for the purpose of constituting the same. Upon that day the meeting was held, in the same place, James Morrison, the oldest Past Master, Presiding. William Murray was elected Grand Master; and the numbers of the Lodges changed as follows: Lexington, No. 1; Paris No. 2; Georgetown, No. 3; Hiram, No. 4; Solomon's, late Abraham No. 5.

First Lodge in Letcher County: Whitesburg Lodge No. 754, Chartered October 19, 1904. Was meeting in the court house at Whitesburg when chartered.

First officers of Whitesburg Lodge:

LeRoy W. Fields, Master  
John W. Hale, Senior Warden  
Robert B. Day, Junior Warden  
Jesse C. Day, Secretary  
Arch A. Sergeant, Treasurer  
Joseph P. Brown, Senior Deacon  
Stephen H. Fields, Junior Deacon  
William H. Blair, Steward  
Bony Ison, Tyler

Lodges in Letcher County at present:

(Continued to Page 59, Col. 2)







OLD ISON HOME  
WHERE MRS. BRYANT HOLCOMB  
WAS REARED



NOTE THE SPURDOLD  
MISDEMEANOR IN THE CHIMNEY

## GO TO Bryant Holcomb's Store FOR BARGAINS

Eat  
Delicious Food  
at  
HOLCOMB'S  
RESTAURANT



MR. HOLCOMB'S STORE  
1946

### BRYANT HOLCOMB'S STORE

Bryant Holcomb, son of Grant and Mary Adams Holcomb, was born June 25th, 1892 on Little Kingdom Come in Letcher County. He married Arizona Ison, 1926, the daughter of Jonah and Polly Ann Ison. To this marriage was born one child, Herbert Hoover. Both were brought up on farms and attended the Public Schools of Letcher County.

Mr. Holcomb attended the Kingdom Come School made famous by John Fox, Junior's Book. "The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come." His father was a farmer who did some logging and owned an interest in a threshing machine. Bryant, while growing up, has gone with the machine, threshing the various crops of small grain in the county. The neighbors would join in and help thresh each others wheat, oats or rye. It took several men to operate the machine, some to haul the grain to the thresher, or if it was already in stack, one to throw it off the stack, one to feed the machine, one to cut binds, one to measure the grain and one to aid in sacking it, one to take the straw away from the back of the machine, one to drive the horses which were pulling the horse power, and one or two others to aid in helping out at various needed places. The charge for the threshing was one tenth of the crop of

grain. The wheat usually was carried horse back to a mill owned by Stephen Caudill about 1 mile below Whitesburg, and those living near the river often carried the wheat to the mill in canoes.

This mill did not have a bolt to bolt the crushed wheat and separate the wheat from the brand and shorts. Shorts are the coarse part of flour. Flour mills are set up with screens for cleaning the chaff and bad wheat, straw, etc., from the wheat, and with rocks or burrs to grind the wheat, and bolt to separate the flour in different grades, from the brand. Some of the wheat mill rocks were so arranged that they turned opposite to that of corn rocks, and the old fashioned bolt, was about 16 or 18 feet long and was made of frames and covered with a real fine cloth; this was so arranged that one end of the bolt was sufficiently higher than the other so that when the crushed wheat entered inside at the higher end, the continuous turning of the bolt, caused the fine flour first to drop through and the coarse flour falling until it came to the real course and real dark flour which is termed the shorts, and finally the brand or outside covering of the wheat grain fell out at the other end of the bolt. A bin caught all the flour from the bolt and the first five or six feet of flour caught in the bin was the first grade flour; or mix all





the flour, except the shorts, made a second grade flour and the part after the first five or six feet, down to the shorts was classed as the third grade flour. The whole wheat flour taken just as it was crushed, was termed Graham Flour. Graham or whole wheat fritters or pancakes are delicious with butter and maple syrup or sorghum.

Jonah Ison's father was Elijah and mother was Peggie Ison. He built the house in which Holcomb now dwells in the year 1812.

The two story house was originally built of fine yellow poplar logs, fitted together perfectly at the corners. The old fire places were four feet wide, the chimney well made of thin stone and each one cut to perfect dimensions and laid up so that it gives the appearance of brick at a distance, so regular are the stones in



Queen's Chair on top of Raven Rock is occupied by one of the many Mountain Queens.

size. (See picture) Halfway between the two main rooms, is a kitchen going back forming a T.

The kitchen fire place had an iron rod fixed inside it at the proper height on which to hang the old time cast iron kettle, in which was boiled many a good stew, beans, turnips, ham and potatoes, etc. Forks nailed to the wall high up over the kitchen mantle and a straight pole laid up in these forks served to hang pumpkin, or beans to dry. Four small poles were tied to the rafters in the kitchen loft, with hickory withe at each end and on this, pumpkin and beans were dried.

Holcomb began Railroadng Sept. 5th, 1925, and will be eligible to retire from service, 1952. During the

time he has been railroading he has purchased the old Jonah Ison home place and lives there, where he has engaged in agriculture, gardening, fruit growing, raising chickens and bees. He keeps his own cows and raises his hogs.

He began the mercantile business July 1939, with \$99.00. He started in a very small way, and served meals to the public and on stock sales days had a nice business from feeding the public and the sale of the few items of merchandise on hand. His wife kept on the job with the business and when Mr. Holcomb was around he assisted in every way he could and today they have a thriving business operating a general store, with fresh meats, vegetables, groceries, dry goods, furniture, and hardware. If you want something he does not have in his store he will use every effort to secure it for you. He and his wife strive in every way to build their business on sound principles of honesty and courtesy. In this way they have little trouble holding their many satisfied customers.

Mr. Holcomb chose wisely his location for a business for it appears very certain there will be a little city built up around him in the years to come. Today the Louisville & Nashville railroad Company is building a new railroad up Rockhouse Creek to the holdings of the Consolidation Coal Company further up the creek. This old Ison homestead is centrally located on Highway No. 15 and is the logical outlet for the residents of the coal camps that are to be built on up the creek. His vision and insight into the future is keen and his success is the result of a couple pulling together in every way possible to succeed.

### Freemasonry

(Continued from Page 57)

Whitesburg Lodge No. 754 at Whitesburg  
Jenkins Lodge No. 856 at Jenkins  
Lonesome Pine No. 884 at Fleming

Officers of Lodges in Letcher County at present:

Whitesburg Lodge No. 754:

Arthur T. Banks, Master  
Howard M. Combs, Senior Warden  
Raymond Collins, Junior Warden  
Arthur Dixon, Treasurer  
Richard G. Evans, Secretary  
Claud J. Andrew, Senior Deacon  
Ray Venters, Junior Deacon  
R. B. Day, Tyler

Jenkins Lodge No. 856:

Peter S. Wheeler, Master  
Lloyd Litton, Senior Warden  
Amos G. Gray, Junior Warden  
A. W. Boggs, Treasurer  
T. D. Vaughan, Secretary  
Hobart Castle, Senior Deacon  
Oscar Nash, Junior Deacon  
C. E. Dotson, Tyler

Lonesome Pine Lodge No. 884:

Harlan Wormsley, Master  
Guy W. Jackson, Senior Warden  
Noel Grizzle, Junior Warden  
George W. Lundy, Treasurer  
Ferdinand Moore, Secretary  
Willie Crase, Senior Deacon  
William Grubbs, Junior Deacon  
Robert Bryant, Tyler







Mr. A. B. Francis

### THE MAN WHO HAD A VISION

"One hundred and forty years ago John Colter left the Lewis and Clark expedition in Montana and went off on his own into the 'Land of Shining Mountains' to trap and explore. Three years later he came back down the Missouri to St. Louis and told a fabulous story of huge geysers and water boiling and steaming magically in the earth.

The people in St. Louis wouldn't believe it. They told Colter he'd discovered something else. They dubbed the territory "Colter's Hell'.

This year on the eve of the 75th anniversary of Yellow Stone, the world's first National Park, people still can't believe it, — even when they see it. Among the record crowd of 800,000 sightseers that thronged the park in 1946, hundreds asked rangers: "When do

you turn on the geyser?' One man asked for a job firing the furnace that heats the water. Old Faithful has been spurting on the average of once every 66 2/3 minutes for 20,000 years, and looks good for that much longer." (Nov. 1946, issue of the Pathfinder).

Even so is the story of the rise of Mr. A. B. Francis, of Whitesburg, Kentucky, in the business world. He was born in 1892 in Pennsylvania, the Key Stone State, a poor boy and the tenth child in a family of twelve children, seven of whom are now living. His father, Dick Francis, was born and reared in Boyd County, Kentucky, and when a very young man, went to Pennsylvania to secure his first job with a flour mill. He later secured one as section hand on the railroad. Soon he met and married Philamae Alley, who became an excellent wife and mother. Dick was a very thrifty







A. B. FRANCIS STORE. Highway No. 15 above Whitesburg.

man and very soon had saved sufficient money to go into a small grocery, but with his energy and thrift it grew to be a very nice business. Mr. Francis was handy at most anything, practicing dentistry, making and repairing shoes, and various other things. When Young Francis was thirteen years of age his father made the first pair of shoes he ever wore. They lived in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, an agriculture and mining community.

As a boy, young Francis worked in his father's grocery at evenings after school, and on week ends, holidays and vacation and here he learned the fundamental principles of a successful business. He was ever alert and grasping new ideas. Albert H. Morrill, President of Kroger Grocery & Baking Company, once said, "I believe in training more than anything else. It doesn't have to be College training, either. A door will open to a man who is using his leisure time in preparing himself." One could hardly think of a better example than Mr. Francis to reflect the wisdom of those words.

While in Pennsylvania, young Francis took a business course, and upon his father's return to Kentucky, he completed a course at West Virginia Business College, Huntington. He desired to study law as a young boy growing up but his father was not financially able to send all his children away to school and thought it was not fair to send one to Law School and not do as much for the others.

His next interest was business so he prepared himself for business and particularly as a salesman. In this he excelled remarkably, securing his first sales job in 1921 with Blackwell Wilandy Co. of St. Louis, Mo. and his territory was Eastern Kentucky Counties. From that time, on, he has been on the road selling and breaking salesmanship records and winning sales awards to such a tempo that, like the "Old Faithful Geyser", one cannot believe it. He maintains business offices in several Eastern Kentucky counties, including Pike, Letcher, Harlan, Bell, Perry and Floyd.

Mr. Francis has been honored time and time again for his outstanding accomplishments in salesmanship. I shall mention only a few of the many honors and awards earned by him. First is a beautiful solid Gold case 21 adjusted Jeweled Hamilton watch with this inscription on the back of it: "Awarded to A. B. Francis by Toledo Scales Co. for leading entire sales force for June, 1927, securing greater percentage of increase in sales over 1926 average". Remember this embraced

both the U. S. A. and Canada. The Toledo Scales Co., in recognition of his superb salesmanship, awarded him a bonus check for \$1,000.00.

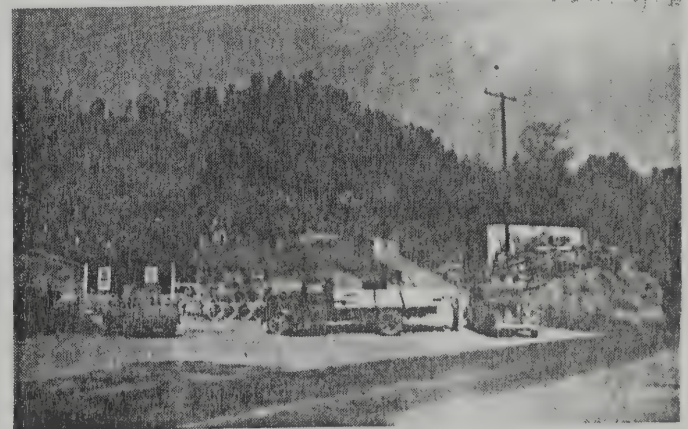
The McCray Refrigerator Company awarded him and seven others a trip to the World's Fair at Chicago and gave each of them a check for \$900.00 to cover all expenses.

The following certificate adorns the wall of his business located on Highway No. 15, just above Whitesburg: "Quota Champion 1941. In recognition of unusual sales achievement this certificate of merit is awarded to A. B. Francis for having exceeded 100% of the sales quota. C. V. Hill, Jr., Vice President".

Although the lean years 1928 and following, stripped Mr. Francis of much of his material wealth, including \$28,000.00 in cash in the broke banks, it served only to strengthen his determination and to broaden his ability to look further, more broadly and with much more accuracy into the future. He is quick to profit by past experience. He has suffered misfortunes and hard breaks just as most others. He suffered from the results of an automobile accident. He was out on business in a Taxi Cab, when the taxi driver carelessly allowed the car to tumble over a half a dozen times or more down a steep hill. This resulted in some months hospitalization and four operations upon Mr. Francis. Yet, in spite of all his ups and downs, he has never lost sight of the ball and has kept his heart on that burning desire to succeed.

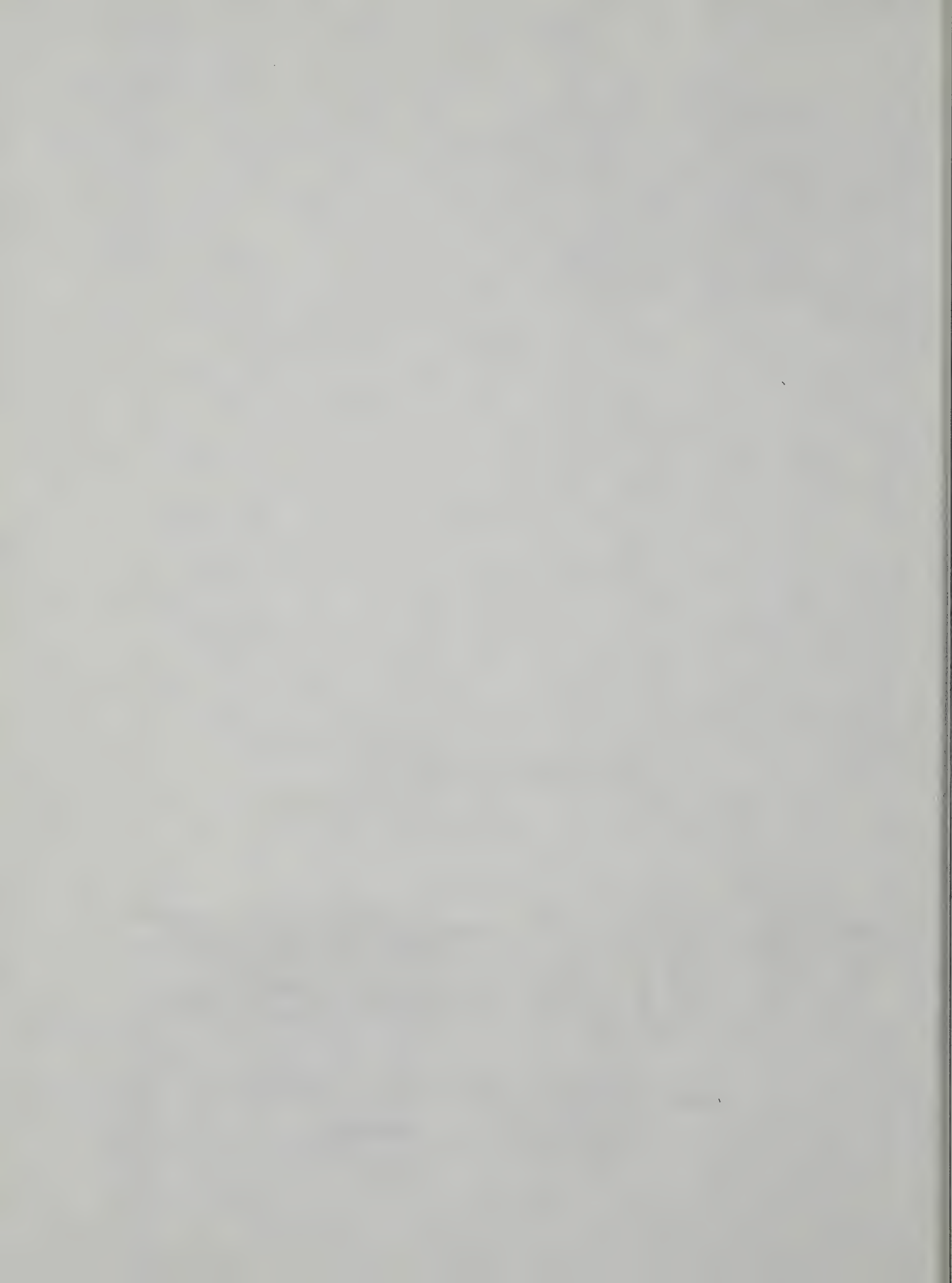
How well he has done this is reflected in his record of accomplishments. In 1939 he established and now owns and operates an excellent store a short distance above Whitesburg; and during all the War years and since, has gone out far and wide in the open market in search of the many much needed building and plumbing supplies, store fixtures and commercial and domestic refrigeration. In this way he has furnished a host of satisfied customers many hard-to-get items which could not be had elsewhere. Thus he has rendered an invaluable service to the people in Letcher and adjoining counties. It has become a well established slogan, "If you can't find it at A. B. Francis store, you need not look further".

In addition to his salesmanship and merchantile accomplishments, Mr. Francis has been dealing very successfully in real estate. He has the acumen to look at a bare hillside and see it with roads and streets around and over it, with a little city of houses scattered about



Site of yard for Building Materials and Supplies

(Continued to Following Page)





and to determine very closely the cost. Just back of his store he secured a Bulldozer to push roads up and around the hill and has built, sold and rented several houses and is now building one each two weeks. Yes, they have doors, windows, electric wiring and fixtures — items many people have been unable to secure. He gets them. How? The A. B. Francis way. Thus he has furnished several men jobs, others much needed homes in which to live and himself made money.

He married Nellie Albright, Louisville, Ky. and to this union was born a son, named Edison B. who died when only two months old. In 1933, he married Corsby Hughes, daughter of John and Martha Slone Hughes of Letcher County.

Mr. Francis is an active member of the Masonic Lodge, U. C. T. and Rotary Club. He is now in position to expand his business, which he intends to do and thus render a much better and more complete service to a greater number of satisfied customers. It has not been by any trick of "Magic" that he has risen from a penniless boy to that of a business man and salesman with considerable net worth and with very satisfactory gross annual sales. This is a splendid demonstration of a man with a vision, — a man who, as a boy, got his eye on the ball and never lost sight of it, — a man who early in life saw those accomplishments far in the hazy horizon and patterned his life accordingly, and then with uprolled sleeves, strove hard to bring those fundamental, well designed visions into reality so that others might see in tangible form what he saw in the shadow. His achievements required more than a vision — preparation and effort. They required satisfied customers which could be won only by courtesy, fair play and keeping on hand what they want.

During his years of traveling Mr. Francis made friends wherever he met them among all classes of people. Men were not too high or too low in rank for him to meet them on an equal plane and many friends scattered throughout the United States which, believe you me, is no little thing to say.

In all his dealings, whether large or small he has followed the rule "Honesty is the Best Policy". Mr. Francis says "If one will be honest in all transactions, large dividends will be returned for such honesty". Early in life he learned the value of money and its need in order to secure the necessities of life as well as some of the pleasures of life. He often uses the words of Benjamin Franklin, "If you want to know the value of money, just try to borrow some of it." He is painstaking in his transactions and weighs over very carefully and tries to study over very meticulously from every angle and viewpoint each detail in all his transactions before his conclusions are drawn and action is taken. By reason of this careful study he has been very successful in practically all his undertakings. He says that we each have our own life to live and that life is just what one makes of it; that God made the world and all that dwell therein, and with His consent man has built the towns and that one must commune frequently with God before too much can be expected in life.

Following these fundamental principles Mr. Francis has been very successful in his accomplishments. He uses every effort to maintain satisfied customers. If you have not found the item of merchandise you want anywhere else, try A. B. Francis' Store. He carries a com-

plete line of building and plumbing supplies, store and restaurant fixtures, domestic and commercial refrigeration, and furniture. If you already have these items and do not have a house to put them in, he will build you one. Call him at Phone 118-B or go see for Yourself.

### THANATOPSIS

\*\*\*The gay will laugh  
When thou art gone, the solemn brood of care  
Plod on, and each one as before will chase  
His favorite phantom; yet all these shall leave  
Their mirth and their employments, and shall come,  
And make their bed with thee. As the long train  
Of ages glide away, the sons of men,  
The youth in life's green spring, and he who goes  
In the full strength of years, matron, and maid,  
And the sweet babe, and the gray-headed man,—  
Shall one by one be gathered to thy side,  
By those, who in their turn shall follow them.  
So live, that when thy summons comes to join  
The innumerable caravan, that moves  
To that mysterious realm, where each shall take  
His chamber in the silent halls of death,  
Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at night,  
Scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed  
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave,  
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch  
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.

—William Cullen Bryant

### THE BULL HOLE

There is an old story that many years ago a man by the name of Bo Frazier owned a large bull weighing approximately 1400 pounds, and while driving him to market around a slick clay mud path near the river bank, suddenly the bull slipped off into a large deep blue hole of water. Mr. Frazier thought sure his bull was drowned, for it was a long time coming up out of the water. At last to his great pleasure and surprise he saw its head bob up out of the water several feet below where it had fallen. Ever afterward the hole became known as the Bull Hole. Presumably this is the same Bull Hole that many unsuccessful candidates in Letcher County have visited,—yet just like the Bull,—not for long. Prior to this incident the nice hole of water was known as Stone Coal Hole.

Or could it be the deep hole in the ground near the gap of Kingdom Come and Cowan Creek? This is a deep hole in the ground and one can drop rocks into it and hear the echo from them as they drop, roll and fall down, down to an unbelievable depth. There is a legend in the Kingdom Come Community that one of the early citizens lost a large brute and many weeks thereafter, he discovered its hide and head with the large horns down in this hole and from that day on it has been known as the Bull Hole.

The husband came home very late.

Wife: "I suppose you were sitting up holding a sick friend's hand all night."

Husband: "If I had been holding his hand, I would have made money," he answered absent mindedly.





## CIVIL WAR DAYS

(Brought from Page 56)

Prior to the Civil War which was brought about mainly over the question of Slavery, many events took place leading up to the actual outbreak of the war. Because of its border-line location between the North and South, Kentucky suffered unduly, and much hard feeling and strife existed between neighbors and families, fathers and sons. A few incidents are here mentioned in order to throw some light upon the conflicts that existed in practically every neighborhood and which served as a fertile field for Guerrilla Warfare.

1848 Aug. 5, Thirteen slaves in a gang escaped to Ohio from the neighborhood one mile North of Lewisburg in Mason County; and 42 slaves in a gang from Fayette and Bourbon counties, attempted to escape, but after proceeding 38 miles to near Claysville, Harrison Co., or Waller's Mill, north in Bracken Co., an effort to capture them brought on a battle in which a negro shot and dangerously wounded a white man. The negroes were all captured.

1860. Shortly prior to 1860 Berea College, Berea, Ky., was founded by "Father" John G. Fee and others, who were Abolitionists and accepted both white and colored students in the school up until about 1900 when by act of the Kentucky Legislature, it became illegal for white and colored students to attend the same school in Kentucky.

Jan. 21, a public meeting at Orangeburg, Mason Co., notified James S. Davis, a coworker with Rev. J. G. Fee, to leave Ky. This meeting approved the action of the Madison Co. meeting and a public meeting at Brooksville, Bracken Co. ordering Rev. Fee and John G. Hanson to leave the state.

In many instances slave owners were fighting to keep their slaves while their neighbors were willing to give up their slaves and even aiding in the escape of all slaves. Cassius M. Clay of Richmond and Lexington and Rev. Robt. J. Breckenridge, DD. of Danville belonged to the abolitionists. Clay was editing a paper in which he advocated abolition of slavery and Rev. Breckenridge, at a public gathering in Danville March 21st, 1864 said, "I am an emancipationist, although a large slaveholder; I have two sons in the Union Army and two in the Rebel Army, and I would not have them killed for the value of all the slave property in the world." There were many instances wherein a soldier deserted the Union Army and later joined the Rebel Army and vice versa. It is said that "Devil" John Wright served a time in both armies.

The aiding of slaves to escape their masters became a thriving business in Kentucky, mainly on account of its proximity to Ohio where the slave was free. The Carpet Beggars became numerous.

1860—March 26, 27 excitement in Madison Co. caused by the return of John G. Hanson, the anti-slavery man who was ordered off with Rev. Fee, several months ago. A mill belonging to Hanson was destroyed.

1861—April 15th Gov. Magoffin refused to raise troops for the Federal Government on order of the Secretary of War; and on April 18th he refused to raise troops for the Southern Confederacy, proclaiming neutrality toward both.

Dec. 10, Ky. was admitted to the Southern Confederacy, and on Dec. 12, Thomas B. Monroe and Henry C. Burnett took their seats as Senators from Ky. in the Southern Confederacy, at its Capitol in Montgomery,

Alabama. Ky. had Senators and Congressmen in both the United States and the Southern Confederacy. Many sheriffs and other officers were compelled to pay tax and other money into the Southern Confederacy's Provisional Government and later to pay to the State and Federal Government Treasuries.

This was very burdensome and added to the hatred that existed. In later years some of these wrongs were corrected.<sup>1</sup>

1861—Dec. 17, Skirmish at Eversole (1 mi. below Krypton) in Perry Co. There is now preserved an old house the property of Sarah Eversole Boggs, granddaughter of Woolery Eversole, which shows the marks of this skirmish. There are several bullets embedded in it and a porthole in the corner of the chimney down near the floor and several port holes up stairs—Information by Dr. J. P. Boggs.

1862—Jan. 10, Engagement at forks of Middle Creek near Prestonsburg, between Col. Garfield's forces and Gen Humphrey Marshall's, who was defeated.

June 13, In U.S. Senate, Garret Davis introduced a resolution that Gen. Simon B. Buckner be delivered up to the Civil authorities of Ky. to be tried for treason.

June 22. Federal Cavalry "Strikes terror into the hearts of traitors," by making arrests in Morgan Co.

June 6, 930 soldiers died in the military hospitals at Louisville, since Sept. 18, 1861, less than 9 mos.

1862—March 14, Gen. Garfield surprised a Confederate Camp at Pound Gap, on the summit of the Cumberland Mountain (Pine Mt.) in Letcher Co. and burned this barracks, 60 large huts and a large quantity of stores. The Confederates fought very bravely but were out numbered and forced to retreat into Va. with a loss of 7 killed and wounded.

July 17, Battle of Cynthiana, Harrison Co. Gen. John H. Morgan's Conf. Rangers defeated a detachment of the 18th Ky.; guards. The contest continued very bravely and desperately for about two hours. A few citizens quietly explored cellars while the fight was so hot. 16 Federals and 14 Rebels were killed and a large amount of Government stores destroyed.<sup>2</sup>

1862—Aug. 4 and 5 skirmish between the home guards and guerrillas at Piketon, Pike Co.

Aug. 6, Another skirmish at Peter's Creek in Pike Co.

1863—Feb. 17th. "In the House of Representatives, Dr. A. B. Chambers moved the house adjourn until Feb. 19th, and the use of the hall be tendered to the Democratic State Convention to assemble at Frankfort tomorrow. For the first time in the history of the state, the courtesy of the use of the hall by a state convention of a great party was refused."

1864—Feb. 22. A bill passed the Legislature, making it a fine of \$100.00 to \$5,000.00 and 3 to 12 months in jail for certain disloyal and treasonable practices, aiding, encouraging or harboring Confederate or Rebel soldiers or guerrillas, exciting either by speech or writing, rebellion against the U.S. or Ky., failing to give information of raids, etc. Punishment by fine of \$500.00

1—"March 6, 1868, the Legislature directed that \$1,200.00 be refunded to C. A. Duncan, late sheriff of Calloway Co., being taxes collected by him in 1861, which was forced, Jan. 21, 1862, by Confederate Soldiers to be paid over to the Commissioner of the Provisional Government of Ky.; but which he afterwards paid into the State Treas." By a similar act, "\$500.00 was refunded to the Administrator of the estate of J. T. Young, late sheriff of Lyon Co. for taxes which Young had collected and although forced to pay to the collector of the Southern Confederacy, has also paid into the State Treasury." (Col. Hist. of Ky.)

2—It was here that "Devil" John Wright was wounded and while in the hospital met his first wife and subsequently married her.

(Continued to Following Page)





for each recruit and by imprisonment from 2 to 6 months any recruiting for military or naval service except that of Ky. or the U. S.

Mar. 3rd, Maj. A. G. Hamilton, 12th Ky. Cavalry, Capt. Jas. A. Johnson, 11th Ky. Cav., Lt. Ed Noble, 21st Ky. Inf., arrived home, having escaped with 104 other officers through a tunnel 57 feet long and 3 ft. in diameter, which occupied 45 days of digging, from Libby Prison, Richmond, Va.

June 2nd, Gen. J. H. Morgan entered Ky. from Va. through Pound Gap, on his last or June raid, with 2,400 men in three brigades. These troops had marched 230 miles in ten days. A large force of Federal Troops under Brg. Gen. Burbridge was beyond Piketon, in Pike Co., at the mouth of Beaver Creek, when Gen. Morgan slipped by on the road through Campton, Wolfe Co., Mt. Sterling and on to Lexington.

1864—'78 Guerrillas attacked Booneville, in Owsley Co., but were driven off by the citizens.

July 19th, Two young men named Powell and Thompson, sent from the Military Prison at Louisville to Henderson, and shot in retaliation for shooting of James E. Rankin, a few days before.

July 22. Mr. Robinson killed by guerrillas at his home on Eagle Creek, Scott Co.; and on July 27th Gen. Burbridge sent a detail of Fed. soldiers there with a captured guerrilla to be shot upon the spot, in retaliation.

July 26. Gibson Mallory, State Senator from Jefferson Co., killed 5 mi. from Louisville by a soldier, who was arrested, but discharged by Gen. Burbridge.

Jail house destroyed by the soldiers in Whitesburg, Letcher Co., Ky.

1864—"During the national election in the fall of 1864, total votes received up to Dec. 6th (soldiers votes were received and counted) for George B. McClelland and Geo. Pendleton 64,301; for Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson 27,786 in Ky. Nine counties in Ky., Breathitt, Calloway, Floyd, Johnson, Letcher, Owen, Perry, Pike and Wolfe failed to make election returns." (Vol. 1 p. 146 Col. Hist. of Ky.)

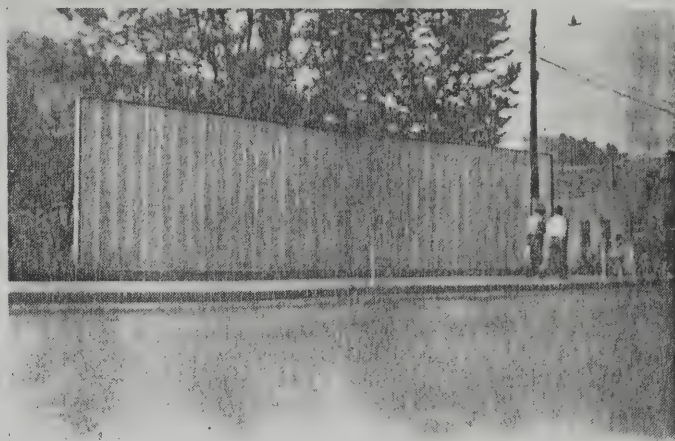
1865—Nov. 3. "Granville Pearl, Judge of the 12th Circuit appears in Lexington under arrest, by order of Gen. Brisbane whose command here is a brigade of negro soldiers—because in the discharge of his duties as Judge he had ordered the sale in partition among some infants of a negro woman, who to avoid the sale, married or pretended to marry a negro soldier. A squad of negro soldiers was sent to arrest him; but an influential friend succeeded in turning them back and saved him that humiliation, by his personal assurance that he would report as soon as cited and which he did."

The writer realizes that much of the foregoing information does not have to do with Letcher County directly but it reflects the terrible turmoil and hardships and ill feelings that existed among the citizens and soldiers in Kentucky; and what suffering many people endured in various ways because of the attempt of many of its sons to secede from the Union while the others desired and strove to have Kentucky remain one of the States of the Union.

### PREPARATION, A VALUABLE ASSET

"The young man who applies his leisure time in preparation for advancement is likely to go forward."

—Howard Coonley, Chairman of the Walworth Company.



Letcher County Honor Roll

### LETCHER COUNTY'S HONOR ROLL

Memorial Day was first observed May 30, 1868. General John Logan, commander-in-chief of G. A. R. issued an order designating May 30 for Grand Army services at which time graves of deceased soldiers would be decorated and Memorial Services held.

Kentuckians have long been known as good soldiers and when our country needed defending, Kentuckians have responded generously. It was the deadly fire from the rifles of the Kentuckians and Tennesseans that stopped the British at New Orleans during the War of 1812. Many of Kentucky's pioneer settlers were Revolutionary soldiers and Indian fighters. Kentucky played an important role in the Mexican War.

Kentucky occupied a strategic position during the Civil War and a tragic situation developed when Kentuckians fought each other.

Two thousand eighteen of the eighty-four thousand one hundred seventy-two Kentuckians who served in World War I did not return. Only a few Congressional Medals of Honor were earned in World War I, yet two of these were awarded to Capt. Samuel Woodfill, Fort Thomas, and Sgt. Willie Sandlin, Buckhorn, respectively, both Kentuckians.

Almost four per cent of those who died in World War II were Kentuckians, yet Kentucky has only two per cent of the nations population. Of this number who died in World War II one hundred forty-nine were from Letcher, two hundred twenty-five from Harlan, fifty-one from Leslie, one hundred seventy-five from Perry, one hundred five from Knott, one hundred twenty-nine from Floyd, and two hundred thirty-eight from Pike.

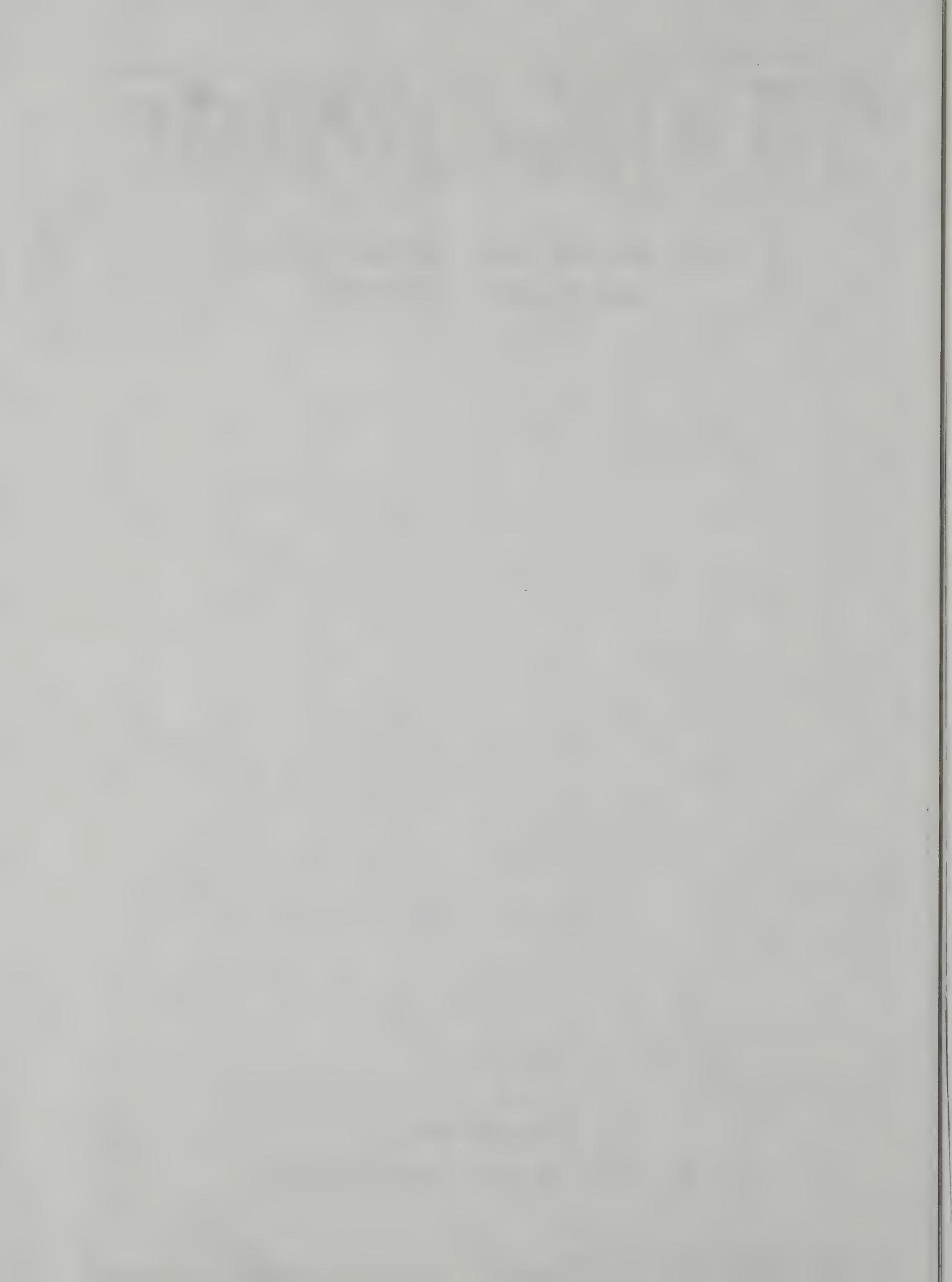
It is only fitting that those of us who are living and for whom these dead gave their last full measure should go forth each Memorial Day and do them honor.

(Continued to Page 69)

### ALL AMERICAN BASKET BALL TEAM 1946-'47

Alex Groza, Kentucky, six foot 7 in., pivot man  
Gerald Tucker, 6 ft. 4 in., Oklahoma  
Andy Phillips, from Illinois  
Ralph Beard, Kentucky, and  
Sidney Tannebaum, N. Y. University.

Ralph Beard, also was voted the All-American for this year.







Mr. Vincent Vertuco

### AMERICA — THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITIES

Most Americans know the old story of how our forefathers crossed the Atlantic in Sail Boats and began the settlement of the New World. Most of them know that others have been coming in countless numbers since the first settlement at Jamestown in 1607, when it took months to cross the Atlantic to the present day when the trip can be made in only a few hours by plane. But few realize the courage it requires to break all home ties, go into a new land and start life all over again.

This is why the store of Vincent Vertuco is particularly fitting to this history of Letcher County. He was born in the City of Piteleia Palicastro, in the Province of Capanzaro, Italy, in the year 1879. He immigrated to the United States in 1904, landing at Ellis Island, New York.

One of his first jobs in the New World was that of a farm hand near Buffalo, N. Y. Later he migrated to Beri Beri, W. Virginia, where he was employed in the coal mines and there remained until he had saved sufficient money to enter the grocery business at Simpson, W. Virginia. The year the railroad came to Jenkins, 1912, he came and was employed by Consolidation Coal Company at Nos. 7 and 8 mines and subsequently became Employment Procurement Agent for the Elkhorn Coal Company.

After some years Mr. Vertuco entered the general merchandise business in 1917 at Neon, Ky., and continued until the depression of 1929 when he closed his business and again returned to the mines working in a supervisory capacity and under contracts.

Again he saved sufficient money to enter the Grocery business in Neon, Kentucky, in the name of Vincent Vertuco Grocery. He became an American Citizen by Naturalization in 1931, and has established an enviable record as an American Citizen.

But the one thing in which Mr. Vertuco has excelled most, perhaps, is in the rearing of a large family of good American Citizens. His wife, Maria, passed on in 1929, after she had brought into this world for her husband, eleven children, ten of whom are living. A daughter, named after her mother, died in Italy in 1940, but the others are living in the United States. There are six boys: Joseph, a graduate of the University of

Kentucky, and a Staff Sgt. in the Army Air Corps, during World War II; Carl, also a soldier and now living in Ashland, Ky.; Dominick, graduate of the Bowling Green Business School, now living in Philadelphia; Frank, Chief Petty Officer in the Navy; Sam, a student at the University of Kentucky, plans to be a Psychiatrist; and Tony who is taking a Pre-Med Course at University of Kentucky. Tony made all Sandy-Valley Conference Football Team. There was always a Vertuco on the Athletic Teams at Fleming until Tony was graduated in 1942. The daughters are Sarafina who lives in Neon, with her father; Mrs. E. C. Hale, former nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital, Lexington, Ky.; Mrs. Jack Johnson, Lexington; and Leda, a student at St. Catherine's Academy, Lexington.

This is the story and adventures of an Italian who came to this country years ago with a determination to succeed, and without any knowledge of the English Language, applied himself and has succeeded in a superb manner. In this land of opportunity and room enough, every man is a citizen,—not a subject. The Vertucos love America, their adopted country, and American Ideals fit around such as they. Stop in at the Vertuco Grocery in Neon, sometime to see them.

### FEDERAL CENSUS OF KENTUCKY

1790 .....	73,677
1800 .....	220,955
1810 .....	406,511
1820 .....	564,317
1830 .....	687,917
1840 .....	779,828
1850 .....	782,405
1860 .....	
1870 .....	1,321,011
1880 .....	1,648,690
1890 .....	1,858,635
1900 .....	2,147,174
1910 .....	2,289,905
1920 .....	2,416,630
1930 .....	2,614,589
1940 .....	2,845,627

## Boone Motor Company

WHITESBURG, KY.

### CHEVROLET SALES AND SERVICE

FOR THE MOST ECONOMICAL AND DEPENDABLE CAR

BUY A CHEVROLET

#### First in Kentucky

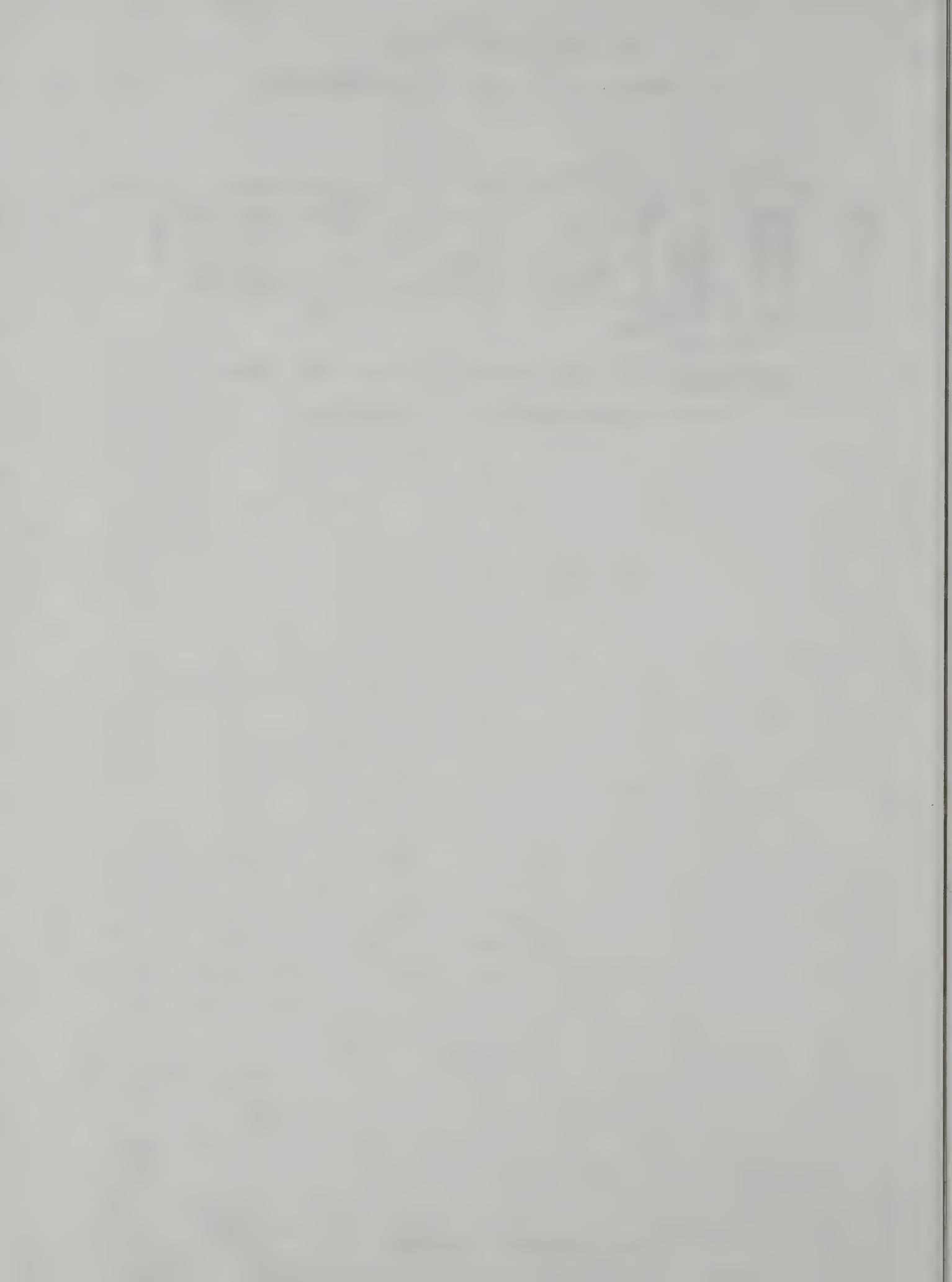
First two Senators from Kentucky

Hon. John Brown

Hon. John Edwards

Senator Brown was a Representative in Congress from Kentucky Territory while it was a part of Virginia.

First Kentucky Derby won by Aristides.







DR. E. G. SKAGGS

### MAYKING COAL SALES COMPANY

Mayking, Ky.

Mr. Samuel E. Adams was born at Mayking Oct. 19th, 1880, the son of B. J. and Elizabeth Craft Adams. He married Maggie, the daughter of D. W. and Cinda Eversole Webb. Throughout the years he has held many important positions with coal companies, farmed, employed by L. & N. R.R. Co. Earned mine foreman papers in 1914 and was Supt. of the mines in Wayland Field. Mr. Adams served some years in the U. S. Army, and during the last World War spent nearly two years in a Defense Plant. He returned from his work and in 1945, organized the Mayking Coal Sales Company, building a large ramp at Mayking, and bought and sold coal, making considerable money.

Mr. Adams' varied and wide experience in the management of large coal companies and the experience gathered in various other employment, enables him to handle the coal sales business far better than the less experienced. One needs to be around him only a short time to realize his knowledge of the coal business and understand the secret of his success, — alertness, sincerity and broad knowledge gained by experience.

### AMERICAN CLEANERS

Neon & Jenkins

Phone 2741 Neon

WALKERS, WEAVERS AND CLOTHIERS

The commercial cleaning industry is of ancient origin. The old Pharaohs of biblical Egypt used a method of working their garments between two wooden blocks, running water over them all the while, in a manner not unlike our own old custom of "batting clothes."

No soap was available in those days, but a very acceptable substitute was found in what is still known as "Fuller's Earth," lye and ammonia. The present day solvents and cleaning fluids are of very recent origin.

The first commercial cleaning established in the United States was opened during the California gold rush at Oakland, to handle the work of the miners who, previous to that time, were forced to send their clothes by ship all the way to Hawaii, and which required six months journey.

The American Cleaners, with a plant in Neon and a branch office in Jenkins which is located directly across from the Post Office, is one of the oldest cleaning establishments in Letcher County. It was founded in 1931 by the late J. M. Sims of Washington County, Virginia.

Prior to coming to Letcher County, Mr. Sims operated a plant at Big Stone Gap, Virginia. The first shop opened in Letcher by Mr. Simms was at Whitesburg, where he stayed for two years before moving his equipment to Neon, where he remained from 1933 until his recent death in an automobile accident. Mr. Simms purchased the old W. E. Wright building and erected modern buildings. He purchased "Rat Row" and began building up that unsightly property. He opened modern laundry at Neon but the water was not suitable and had to close the laundry business.

The AMERICAN DRY CLEANERS is now being operated by members of the Simms family. Carl Simms is acting manager, assisted by other members of the family. The same efficient and dependable service is being offered as before, because the staff of the AMERICAN CLEANERS has remained intact. They offer a three day pick up and delivery service.

In addition to operating a successful cleaning establishment, the Sims family has contributed greatly toward the development of aviation. J. M. Simms landed the first airplane in the county, at the big Indian Bottom at Myaking. Both Carl and Manuel Simms are avid air fans. At the time of his unfortunate demise, J. M. Sims was working with others to establish a landing field for Letcher. It is, indeed, sad that he should have been called before realizing this dream, and it is to be hoped that those interested with him will continue their efforts until the county is represented in the growing demand for air transportation.

### THE REED MOTOR COMPANY AND THE FLEMING COAL COMPANY

Whitesburg and Fleming, Ky.—Phone 180 Whitesburg

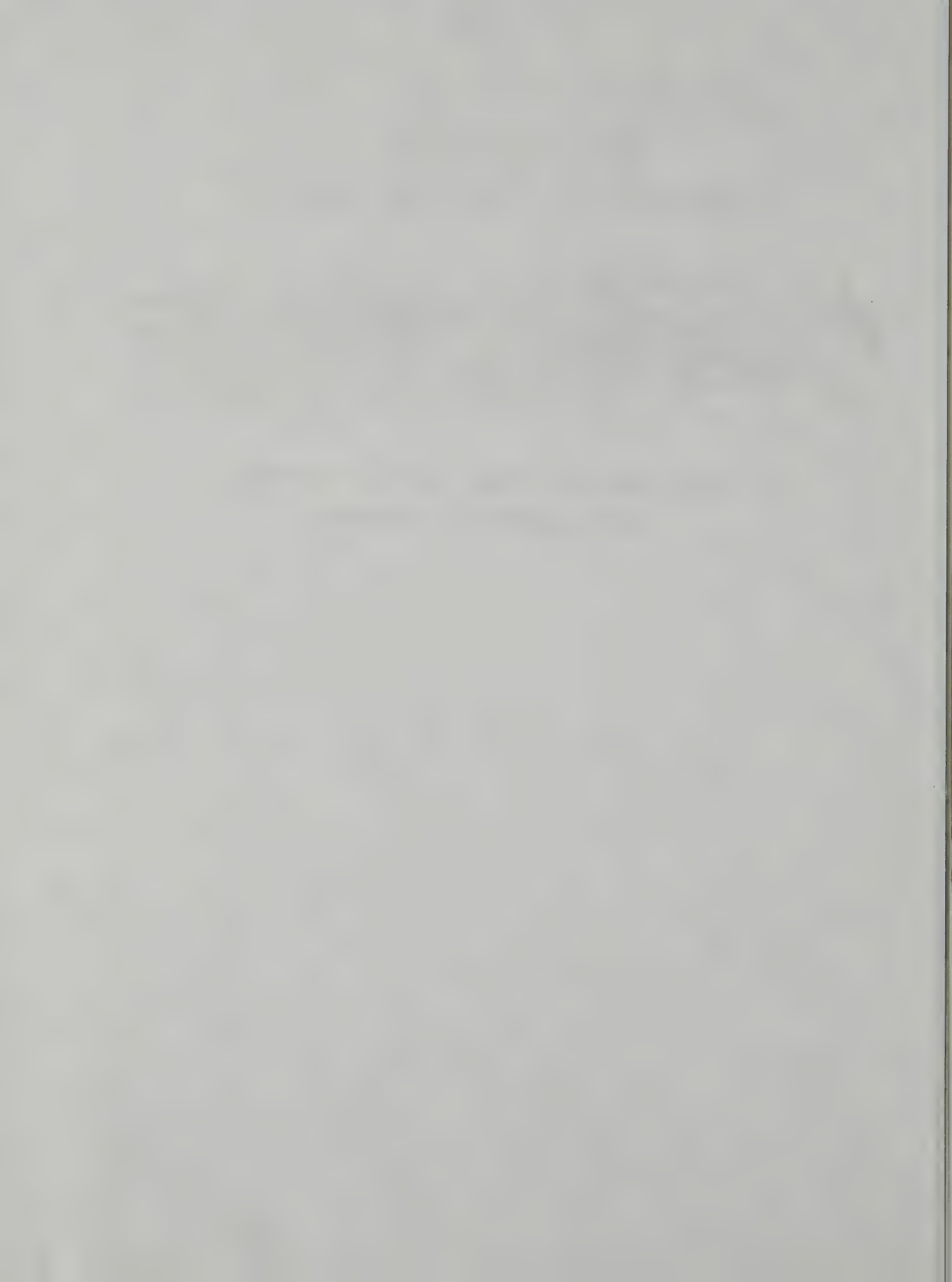
#### OPPORTUNITY IS WHERE YOU MAKE IT

It is often been said that the United States is no longer a land of opportunity for a young man; that all the good things have been taken up by older citizens and families of wealth; and the belief is universal that one's best chances of success lie in distant fields, away from the old homestead.

This is not true. Every year in Letcher County we see examples that prove beyond doubt the fallacy of this belief; every year we see the birth of some new business venture destined to succeed. Older ones are passing on and younger establishments are rising to replace them, owned and managed by young men who have seen the immense possibilities of their county.

A partnership which had its inception in 1943, and which is constantly growing in strength, is that formed by Dr. E. G. Skaggs, of Neon, M. E. Dearing, and R. L. Reed, of Fleming. Here is a concrete example that vivifies the possibilities of business success in Letcher County.

In July of 1943 this partnership opened a truck mine, the Fleming Coal Company, which is located about a half mile above Neon and is one of 150 such mines in Letcher County. This was at a time when all the world was crying for coal . . . coal to manufacture steel for war plants, coal to fuel trains hauling war material, coal to spin the giant turbines of huge transport and





reighter ships pushing their noses into foreign waters to supply our fighting men. Coal was an absolute necessity, and the Fleming Coal Company did its bit toward meeting the demands of a war torn nation.

Today the Fleming Coal Company is funneling its tonnage into the equally demanding market of a peace time industrial boom.

These men did not look beyond the border of Letcher County to find opportunity. They dug into the vast store of natural resources that lay in the hills about them and prospered. Nor did they risk the uncertainty of going into a business about which they knew nothing.

M. E. Dearing has long been associated with the Elkhorn Coal Corporation, the chief clerk in the accounting department, and coal was his business. Before coming to Fleming, in 1931, Mr. Dearing was with the same company at Wayland. Most of his life has been spent in direct contact with various phases of coal mining operation. So it was that he did not take a step in the dark when he entered into the partnership known as the Fleming Coal Company. His home town is Glasgow, Ky. He took his business training at Bowling Green, Ky. and was graduated from there with a B. A. degree.

R. L. Reed has spent the major part of his life in the coal industry. He started with the Elkhorn Coal Corporation in 1918, and remained with them until 1943, at which time he joined with M. E. Dearing and Dr. Skaggs to form the Fleming Coal Company. The years that Mr. Reed spent with the Elkhorn were all in the productive end. He was at different times mine foreman, tippie foreman. He is a dependable church member and worker.

Dr. E. G. Skaggs, the third partner, for several years has been head of the Elkhorn's Fleming Hospital, in addition to supervising a staff of several doctors who minister to various other Elkhorn camps and the public in general. Dr. Skaggs is a man of keen business insight, sound training and an excellent co-partner in the business interests held by this partnership.

In June 1945 these three men opened still another business in Letcher County. This was the Reed Motor Company, located on Webb Street in Whitesburg, phone 180. They handle DESOTO and Plymouth cars and have an excellent repair shop in conjunction with the dealership. Accessories, tires, tubes and batteries, plus a full line of parts.

Mr. Dearing is interested in the Fraley-Dearing Motor Sales at Wayland.

Like all other automobile dealers throughout the country, the Reed Motor Company cannot supply the huge public demand for cars but they anticipate some relief in the near future, and will be glad to have you stop in and see them at any time concerning your needs.

## THE W. E. STEWART AND COMPANY

Kona, Kentucky  
AN HISTORIC SPOT

At Kona, near the spot upon which the W. E. Stewart and Company now stands, is one of the most historic spots in Letcher County. The land upon which Stewart and Company is located was visited by the great pioneer hunter, Daniel Boone. Within two hundred feet of the store stood the tree on which Daniel Boone carved his immortal words, "D. Boone killed a

bar (1781)."

W. E. Stewart, manager and owner with Dr. E. G. Skaggs of Neon, of the W. E. Stewart and Company, is keenly aware of the historic associations of the spot upon which his store is located. He is making an effort at this time to locate curios and items of value in this field and plans to have post cards and other material prepared in this connection.

Mr. Stewart, prior to forming his partnership with Dr. Skaggs, spent several years in the industrial stores of the Elkhorn Coal Corporation at Fleming, Jackhorn and with Wells-Elkhorn at Estill, Kentucky. This training, plus his natural ability in the merchandising field, has especially fitted him to render a retail service to the citizens of Letcher County.

From February 1944 until March 1946 Mr. Stewart was attached to the Navy transport M. S. Bloemfontein, a Dutch ship taken over by the United States. He served in the Pacific, Asiatic and European theaters, and is a full fledged "Shell-back", having crossed the Equator and been thoroughly initiated into that "Mystic Order of the Deep."

On August 1, 1946, Mr. Stewart officially took over the management of the W. E. Stewart and Company store, which was formerly owned by the Reverend W. B. Hall and others. Few changes have been made in the store to date, but plans are being made to renovate the building in order to create more display room and to increase customer service.

Phone 2171, or just stop in this store and get a touch of the friendliness and prompt service.

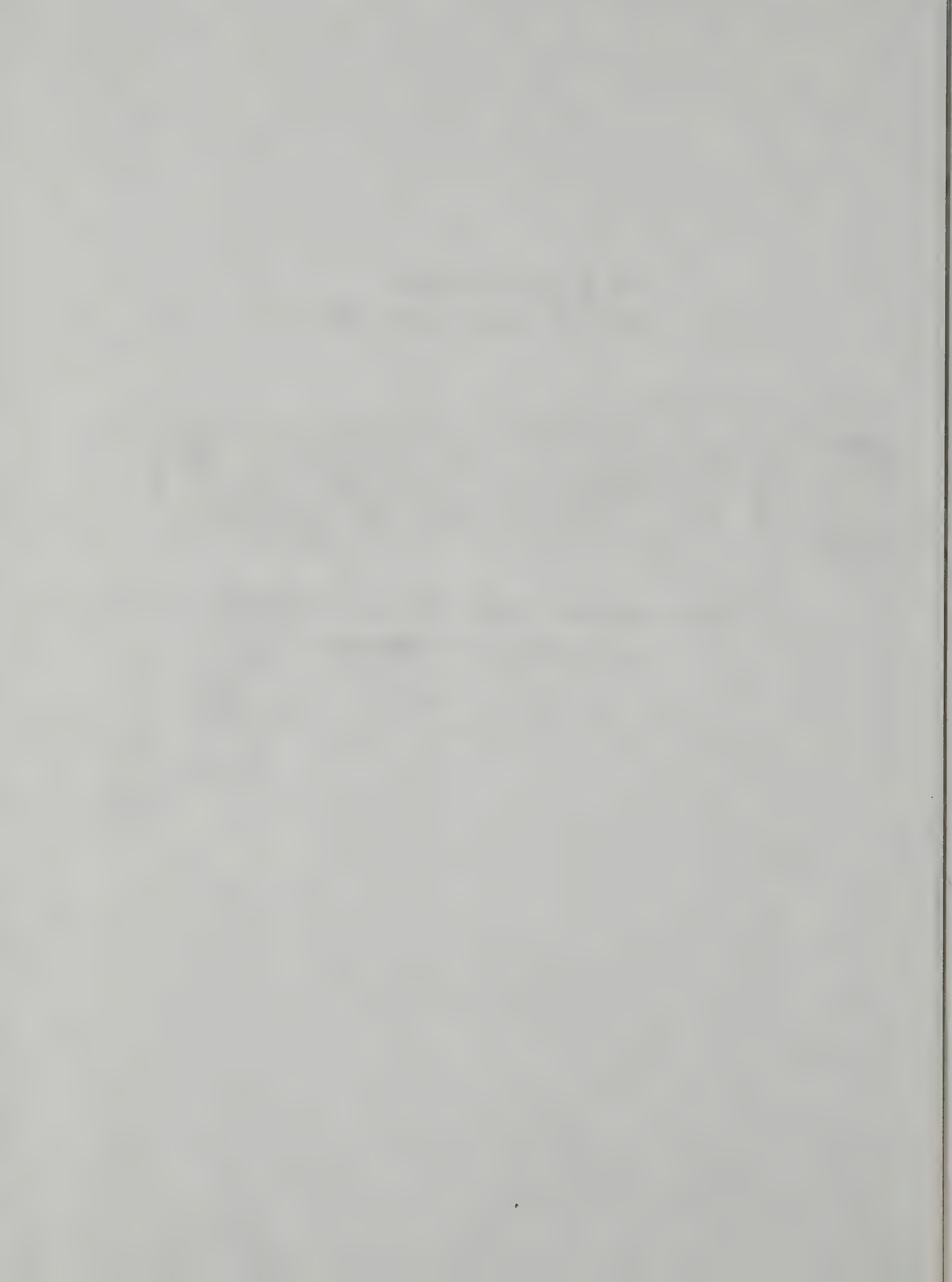


## ED'S TAXI

Neon, Ky.

Phone 2401

Frank Edward Holcomb born on Little Creek of Boone Fork. He attended Fleming High School, and married Itila May Hall. His mother was a granddaughter of "Devil" John Wright. He worked at various jobs and during the war was a truck driver at Patterson Field, Dayton, Ohio. At the close of the war he returned to Letcher and bought a taxi, later he purchased two more and continued to build and in 1945 formed a partnership with Dr. Skaggs and purchased Jesse Wright's business. Soon thereafter he purchased the Fleming Motor Company, doing repair work and doing a very extensive used car business. Handles Pure Oil Products, Tires, Tubes and Accessories. Together with his wife, they have worked unceasingly to make the business what it is today. Only perseverance, foresight and fair play can result in such success as has come to Mr. and Mrs. Holcomb.





## TAXES

Taxes have been a question that has been discussed pro and con through out all time. Government must have money to operate. Government is a product or institution of the people and, therefore, must be supported by the people. In the earliest history of England, our mother country, time was when one leader in a community built up his following and protected them and they in turn worked for him and themselves and worked out in more or less a group affair. This leader in turn had to answer to another who was over him, several answering to the same person, and this person with others answered in taxes or commodities or both to another and so on back to the King or Queen. Finally this way became a little burdensome and the method of levying a property or per head tax came into existence. This tax became quite burdensome.

Taxes in England became too oppressive and many people left England, after the discovery of America in 1492, by Christopher Columbus, and came to America to avoid such heavy burden of taxation. But to their sorrow, the yoke of burdensome taxes followed them across the ocean. The Kings and Queens of England demanded and collected taxes of the colonists who had found their way to America, the land of promise and room enough. Taxes were paid in various forms with commodities,—tobacco etc. and money. The Colonists did not have any voice in election or whether they pay taxes or not or what amount. This and other questions brought on the Revolutionary War, which lasted through eight long, arduous and suffering years. This war won for the 13 original colonies their independence, and then came in 1787 the Constitutional Conventions, which laid out the plans of our present Democratic Form of Government. George Washington, who was an engineer, surveyor, soldier, large landowner, financier, and statesman was first in War, first in Peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen, and in 1789, was chosen the first President of the new American Government. The thirteen original Colonies became thirteen States of the United States of America. He served two terms as head of this nation, and refused a third term. Washington was born in 1732, and when sixteen years old he was Commissioned by Lord Fairfax to survey some Virginia land which Lord Fairfax had inherited from Lord Culpeper. We have quite positive evidence that Washington, sometime after this, surveyed land in Letcher County, Kentucky, and surveyors say the lines mapped by him at that time, when the whole territory was a vast forest, are surprisingly accurate. It is said that Washington rode out over his landed estate one cold rainy day, caught cold which developed into Pneumonia, and died in 1799.

Even this new Government, headed by the man who was first in the hearts of his countrymen required some form of taxation to support it. Taxes were then and will be with us always. Just as the National Government must raise funds with some form of taxation,—the city and the county must raise funds in some form of taxation. Schools must raise revenue to build buildings, purchase text books and employ teachers and superintendents. Thus we find this was true in the beginning of our nation, our state and in Letcher County, even before it became a county. For we read in Perry County Court Order Book No. 2, (Order Books Nos. 1 and 3 are missing from the Clerk's office), entered at the Nov. Term of Court, 1832, the following order: "Ordered that

the sheriff of this county collect from each Tythe 12½ cents and pay the several county creditors their respective demands and if any balance, Retain the same in his hands subject to the further orders, of this court." Even though this sum appeared trivial, it was a tax just the same to pay the county officials and other county expense. This was entered while Letcher County Territory was still a part of Perry and Harlan counties.

Some of the records of the Letcher County Court were destroyed soon after the Civil War between the states, and for that reason one cannot find record of tax levies in Letcher County until about 1866. During and immediately following the war years, the county officials were greatly handicapped in their duties, and holding the court was virtually suspended in Letcher County. Everything was turmoil and the county abounded in much lawlessness. Citizens did not pay taxes and hence the county was indebted for various things, the jail house was destroyed, and other public loss and damage done, all of which had to be repaired. After the war ended, the question of levying and collecting a tax for the war years arose and resulted in heated discussions and great resistance. The idea of collecting back taxes, although just, has always been greatly dreaded, and it usually carries with it considerable penalties plus legal interest. After much discussion, the following order was entered affecting back taxes: Order Book No. 1, page 4, April Term, 1866. "Whereas great distress has occurred and doubt exists as to the legality of collecting the county levy for the years 1862 and up to 1865, I, the county Judge of Letcher County Court, do hereby order that the Sheriff of Letcher County collect the sum of two dollars of all legal tythes of said county and account for the same to this court for the years above named, which is ordered to be copied and certified to said Sheriff."

On page 54 of the same order book appears this order: "Ordered by the Court that the Sheriff of Letcher County collect \$1.50 of every tythe in said county for 1867 to defray the expenses of 1866."

There were many instances in the early days of the county in which tythes were exonerated from the payment of taxes, just as many are exonerated from paying taxes today. This procedure amounts to considerable expense to the county each year in costs of making and entering Court Orders. Here follows an order which is unique in that it has to do with a negro just after the Civil War ended which gave the negro his freedom: "Ordered by the Court that Allen Christian be exonerated from paying of a county levy on one negro, being under sixteen years of age, and that this order be copied and certified to the Sheriff and Auditor."

February Term 1866, James Sturgill was "exonerated from paying poll tax for the year of 1866, he having produced a Receipt from Virginia that he has paid his Poll Tax in Virginia."

So it is said of the Vicious Cycle of levying and collecting taxes and paying the Public Indebtedness, that 'round and 'round it goes, and where it stops no body knows. With the stupendous cost in property and dollars (not to mention life and casualty) of the last World War, one well may have some misgivings and fear. One might say it is a sorry heritage for the unborn. Yet FREEDOM,— the blaze of HOPE is with us yet. FREEDOM is dear; the price heavy. We trust the price paid is not too high.





## Letcher County History

(Continued from Page 64)

### ROADS

The earliest roads in the county usually followed the old Indian and Buffalo trails, and strange enough these trails invariably followed the best grades across the mountains, and to the best fords across the streams. Prior to 1830 wagon roads were not attempted. Commerce was carried on by means of the pack horse<sup>1</sup> or river packets. The mountains were impassible except at an occasional low gap.<sup>2</sup>

The driving of live stock to market soon became an important industry as the county became settled. Many of the earlier settlers of Kentucky and Letcher County raised live stock, geese and turkeys, and found it necessary to drive them to market. These hardy settlers required salt, soda and other articles of food and clothing. The need for roads became more and more urgent. The vast forests and steep, high mountains were too much to follow only the trails as these needs increased. Many a drove of cattle, hogs, sheep, turkeys and geese and frequently some horses were driven to Mt. Sterling or to Virginia and the Carolinas through Pound Gap.<sup>3</sup>

There was a market to the South East and at the close of the War of 1814, much live stock was driven through Cumberland Gap to Georgia and the Carolinas. This was an excellent market for horses and mules.<sup>4</sup> "In 1836 droves of horses and hogs from the West were taking annually from South Carolina two million dollars in cash."—(Ky. House Journal, 1836-37, Appendix).

As the market to the south and east increased, and because of the arduousness of driving herds of live stock over these trails and crude roads, the settlers in Central Kentucky and around Mt. Sterling began looking for a shorter route to market. Soon it was determined that a road from Mt. Sterling through Prestonsburg, to Virginia through Pound Gap would save considerable mileage. A survey of this road known as the Red River-Pound Gap Road was sought.

The Wilderness Trail leading through Crab Orchard, and Laurel County Through Cumberland Gap was the

1—Saddles of a most primitive type are to be seen throughout the mountains. The better sort have bags, in which heavy loads are carried. Much of the farm produce reaches the country stores in this way. Handmade baskets are also attached to the saddle, and are often filled to the brim with eggs, berries, poultry, etc. The horse usually carries, in addition, two members of the family and sometimes more. Until recently old-fashioned pack-saddles were common. Speed's description of the ones brought in by the pioneers applies almost as well to those substitutes in use in the mountains to-day: "A rude contrivance made of the forked branch of a tree . . . When fastened upon a horse it became the receptacle of the goods and chattels to be transported. Thus were carried provisions for the journey and the household stuff and utensils . . . The fork had to have a particular shape, and the branch of a tree which could be made into a saddle was an attractive object . . . This method of carrying burdens caused the word 'pack' to be used for 'carry,' and the misuse of the word is still common among Kentucky people." (Speed, Wilderness Road, p. 73.)

According to Shaler: "At the time when Kentucky was settled the European pack-saddle was still in general use in this country. It was almost the only means of conveying burdens employed down to the end of the sixteenth century. It held on in Virginia for more than a century after it had generally passed out of service in the Old World. Remnants of its use may still be found in some of the sequestered corners of the Southern Appalachians. But for this simple instrument the settlement of Kentucky would hardly have been possible, for it was many years before a wagon road was constructed." (Shaler, History of Kentucky, note, pp. 59, 60.)

2—Immediately to the west of Pine Mountain the high ridges between Line Fork, Greasy, and Cutshin creeks, at the headwaters of the Kentucky River in Leslie County, can be ascended with the greatest difficulty because of a thick detritus of stones, washed downstream from a coarse sandstone outcropping in the locality. Consequently, until 1890, no wagon roads were attempted, and but few are found at the present time. (Kentucky Mines, 1901-2; Reports on Eastern Coal Fields, Chap. XV, p. 50.)

3—"Michaux, writing in 1802, stated," The number of horned cattle is very considerable in Kentucky; those who deal in them, purchase them lean, and drive them in droves of from two to three hundred to Virginia, along the River Potomac, where they sell them to graziers who fatten them in order to supply the markets of Baltimore and Philadelphia.

4—The Southern States, and in particular South Carolina, are the principal places destined for the sale of horses. —Michaux.

first of the main roads to be built and was the first to receive state aid. The first turn pike was built on this road and toll gate erected. In addition to this road three other main roads were established. The country and particularly the mountain section of Kentucky was sparsely settled and state aid was necessary to build these main roads. These roads received state aid, and

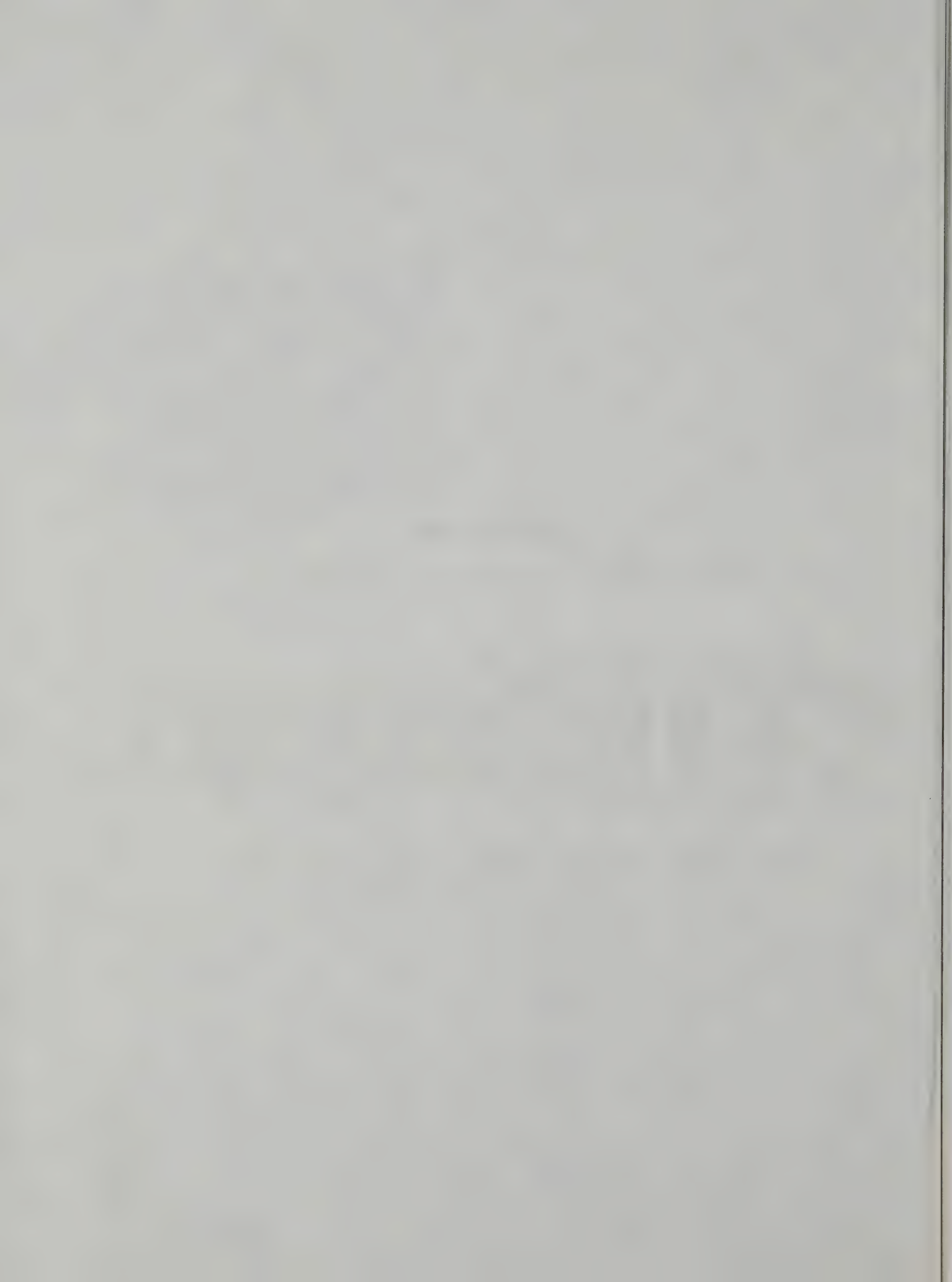


Beautiful Pine Mountain in Letcher County where many species of wild animals once roamed is now a game reserve with deer again feeding around. In the early days squirrels did so much damage to crops that the farmers would put out poison for them. It is said that one man has killed as many as 40 with a big rifle and left them lying on the ground.

are the — Big Sandy Trail, which extended past Bourbon Furnace on Slate Creek, to "Mud Lick" (Olympian Springs), crossing the Licking River at the mouth of Tripplett's Creek, and passing up Tripplett's Creek across the Little Sandy, at or near Salt Springs south of Grayson to "Balchutha". The Red River-Pound Gap trail, substantially the same as followed by Gist; and the Kentucky River Trail, leading to Pound Gap up the North Fork of the Kentucky River, coming in at Payne Gap.

The Red River-Pound Gap road was first planned to extend to Prestonsburg from Mt. Sterling, and from there to the Virginia line at Sounding Gap (Pound Gap), on top of the Cumberland Mountain, (Pine Mountain). The first Commissioners reported that the bearing of this road as originally surveyed from near Prestonsburg to top of Cumberland Mountain (Pine Mountains) was "too much southerly" and suggested that the road be opened up Louisa Fork of the Big Sandy and that it would be forty miles "nigher to the interior of Virginia or the Federal City." Necessary steps were taken in conjunction with Road Commissioners from Virginia and the road Commissioners reported Nov. 22, 1823 that they had selected as most practicable the route from a point marked V-K, on the Louisa Fork up the river to Clinch Mountain." This was from Mt. Sterling via Prestonsburg in the direction of Tazewell Court house. January 7, 1824 there was appropriated from the Treasury of Ky. \$2,700.00 to build this road. The road

(Continued to Following Page)





from Mt. Sterling to the Virginia line was practically completed by January 1st, 1840, and was made possible to haul moderate loads over in wagons; the hills being graded and drained and some of the worst crossings of streams bridged. By this time plans were made to improve the road from Pikeville to Sounding Gap (Pound Gap), since this way had become of more importance than the Louisa road on account of the trade with Virginia and Tennessee to the southeast. In February 1834, an act was passed authorizing the establishment of the Pikeville and Virginia Turnpike Co. The purpose of this company was to control the road from Pikeville to Pound Gap at the head of Elkhorn Creek. It was to be capitalized at \$2,500.00. This, however, was never carried out and later the Improvement Board with the use of \$6,324 from the State Funds made the improvements, leading from Pikeville along Shelby and Elkhorn Creeks to Pound Gap, (in 1835-36), a distance of approximately 37 miles. This was a much used road for driving live stock to the Virginia, Tennessee and Carolinas markets. The route practically followed the old indian trail up Shelby Creek.<sup>1</sup> It was thirty seven miles from Pikeville to Sounding Gap according to the old survey.

This became one of the more important routes and Pound Gap became a very important center as travel and commerce increased up to the time of the Civil War.<sup>2</sup>

The road from Mt. Sterling through to Pound Gap served the Big Sandy section of the county but the other part in the basin of the North Fork of the Kentucky River needed an outlet, and the entire county should have a road leading to the county seat, Perry Courthouse.

#### Irvine-Pound Gap Road

The North Fork of the Kentucky River afforded an outlet for the county. It cut its way through from high up on the mountain at Payne Gap in a northwesterly direction down from the mountains through the Blue Grass counties. The early settlers began to plan a road to be known as the Irvine-Pound Gap Road. At this time the greater portion of what is now Letcher County was a part of Perry County. The Sheriff of Perry County was Benjamin Webb and lived in what is now Letcher County.<sup>3</sup> Attending the courts at Perry Courthouse (Hazard) over the trails in winter weather, with swollen streams, snow and ice, was an arduous task. Money was scarce and very little taxable property and the taxes meager, yet hard to pay.<sup>4</sup>

1—The route extended "along the margin of the Sandy" to the mouth of Island Creek; up Island Creek to Shelby Creek; up Shelby to Elkhorn; up Elkhorn to the "foot of Cumberland Mountain" (i. e. Pine Mountain); and up this mountain to the Virginia line in Sounding Gap, by means of a gap between Elkhorn and Kentucky River, elevated about one-half the height of the former gap. This route, via the Kentucky-Elkhorn gap, was longer but less steep than a line straight up Elkhorn, and had the further advantage of connecting it with a road from Hazard, in Perry County, which had become a mail route. (House Journal, 1835-36, Appendix, pp. 46-47.)

2—"Traffic through Pound Gap reached from Saltville, Va., to iron works in Bath County and up the Red River, in Ky. Salt was ailed in wagons from the salt-works in Washington County, Va. to supply much of the demand in the counties of Pike, Floyd and Perry. Iron was taken back from the iron works in Kentucky and distributed as 'the great, huge teams' returned to Va. Judge Osburn's Hotel, at the foot of Pound Gap on Elkhorn, was one of the most important on the entire route. In addition to the calling of innkeeper he kept on sale salt, iron and other articles of merchandise for the convenience of his neighbors. 'This point was a busy place until the traffic which kept it here was turned in other channels and other directions.'" William Ely, in Big Sandy Valley, p. 415.)

3—December Term 1832 of the Perry County Court, the following order entered in O.B. 2 p. 52. "Ordered that a spa issue vs. Benjamin Webb, to show cause if any he can, why he should not be fined for failing to attend this Court, him being High Sheriff of this County."

4—Nov. Term 1832 P. C. Court, O.B. 2, p. 47. "Ordered that the Sheriff of this County collect from each Tythe 12½ cents and pay the several county creditors their respective demands and if any balance remain the same in his hands subject to the further orders of this Court."

## MORGAN'S SHOE REPAIRING

Main St.

Whitesburg, Ky.

### EXPERT SHOE REPAIRING

When Run Down at The Heel  
and Your Sole Needs Repairing

Go To  
MORGAN'S

It was necessary to establish a road to the County seat at Hazard. This required funds with which to survey and build the road. It was found that the "Seminary Lands" could be turned into a source of revenue for that purpose.

#### Seminary Lands

Prior to January 15th, 1831 a law was passed providing that "All the lands lying within the bounds of this Commonwealth on the south side of the Cumberland River and below Obed's River, now vacant, etc., shall be reserved for the endowment and use of seminaries of learning throughout the Commonwealth", and each county court was authorized to have patented within their respective counties, or within the reserve, or elsewhere in the state, up to 6,000 acres of land for seminary purposes, and all such land was free from taxation.

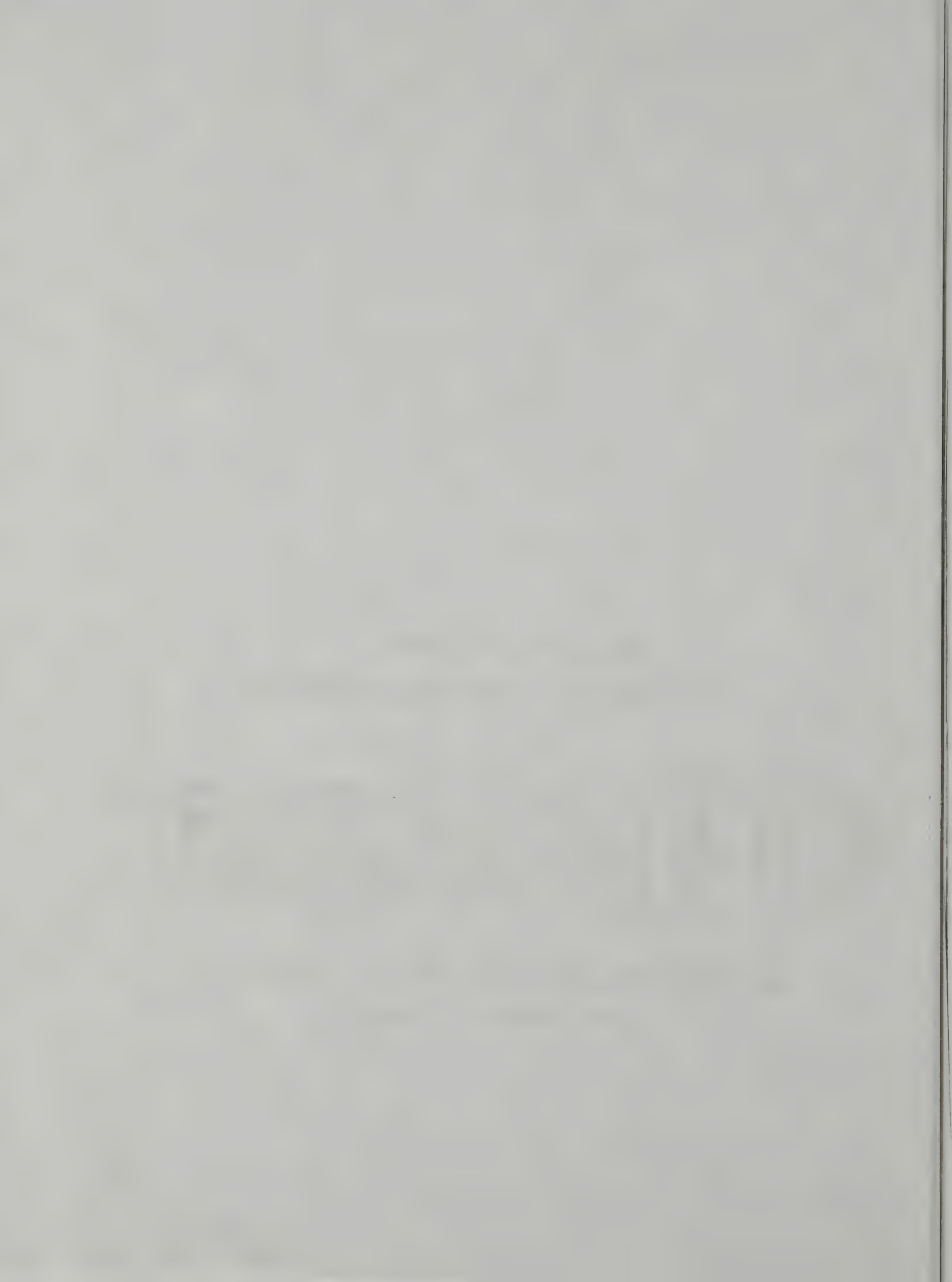
January 15th, 1831, Perry County Court was authorized to sell the Perry County "Seminary Lands" and apply the proceeds of the sale in opening a road from Estill County to the Perry Courthouse, and thence to the Virginia line. 10,000 A land warrants to be located in the county, were also to be appropriated and used for the same purpose. (Kentucky Mountains-Verhoeff Vol. I p. 162.)

#### The Last of the Four Main Roads

The route up the North Fork of the Kentucky River was the last of the four main roads to receive state aid. The appropriations were small and the road only slightly improved. It extended from Irvine in Estill County to Sounding Gap (now Pound Gap). In 1831 the Perry County Court was authorized to sell the "Seminary Lands" of the county which had not been sold. The county was authorized to use the proceeds of these lands to establish a road from the Estill County line to the Virginia line "on top of Cumberland Mountain" by way of Perry Court House (Hazard).

At March term 1832 of the Perry County Court (O.B. No. 2 page 27) the following orders were entered:

"That E. Combs, Joseph Hammons, John W. Bates, B. Webb to view the road from Perry Courthouse to the Virginia Line and make Report to Court; that Elijah Combs, I. Combs, W. Begley and Patrick B. Webb appoint to View the Road from the Estill County Line to Perry Court House and report to Court."





At the March 1833 term of said Court we find the following order:

"Met at the Virginia line on the top of Cumberland Mountain where it proposed the said road shall begin and viewed the ground along which the Road is to run about fifty miles from where the said Road is to commence to Perry Court house, and great convenience will result to the Public as well as the individuals if said road is Established because there is no Public Road between the Va. line and Perry Court house and citizens of the county labour under great inconvenience for the want of a road and that there will be no private inconvenience to any person if the said road should be Established and said proposed Road will run through the land of Benjamin Bently, Thomas Bently, John Holbrook, Lewis Bently, Joseph Hammons, John W. Bates, Benjamin Adams, Ephriam Hammon, John Johnson, John Caudill, James Collins, Abraham Burgey, Thomas Francis, John Mullins, Delphia Johnson, Biram Combs, William Adams, Nancy Maden, John Cornett, John Kelly, Jeremiah Combs, John Combs, Elijah Combs, Jepey Stacy, Lydia Combs, the Clerk is ordered to issue a Spa vs. the above persons returnable to the next term of this Court."

The above orders are convincing evidence that Perry County in 1832 extended from the Estill County line to the Virginia line on top of Pine Mountain at Pound Gap.

This road from "the mouth of Troublesome to Sounding Gap" became an established mail route, and in the years 1836 and 1837 a conditional grant of \$3,000.00 for improvements was made. Prior to this time this road was little more than a trail or path, and the road was to be placed in charge of the Perry County Court for working and repairs but the court was not to have any powers to alter or discontinue the road.

The chief engineer reported among other things "the appropriation is so totally inadequate to the construction of the road that I feel at a loss how to recommend the expenditure of any part; but if the Board should direct the road from Pikeville be made to the Sounding Gap, it would certainly be of great advantage to the community in that section to have this road to connect with that on the side of the mountain, at a point about one mile below the gap. This would make the road up the mountain answer a double purpose. I, therefore, recommend that two miles and a quarter of this road should be made from the point of intersection".

The cost of this road was estimated at \$200.00 per mile along the river and creeks and through the bottom lands and at \$2,000.00 per mile for about 8 miles which was to be cut in the sides of the mountains.<sup>1</sup>

### Turn Pikes and Toll Gates

Many turnpikes were built in various sections of the state by companies or corporations usually with some state aid; and by act of the legislature in 1837 this road was granted \$7,000.00 in "scrip". Toll gates were to be established.<sup>2</sup> The grade of the road should not exceed five degrees and the width over dividing ridges at least fifteen feet. The sums of money appropriated for improvement of the road and improvement of the connecting roads were very inadequate and but little could be done upon the whole length of the road. Usually the main bulk of the money appropriated was spent in improving a very small section of the road. Up until about 1839 much of this road was little more than a bridle path.<sup>3</sup>



The old Johnson home, now in Knott County, was in Letcher County prior to the forming of Knott Co. It is said this house was built on Carr's Fork about 1786 near where it now stands. It was in Virginia and later in Ky. and has been in eight counties.

For many years it served as a Tavern where liquor was sold.

During the Civil War Days a deaf mute was killed here by soldiers who ordered him to "halt" but being unable to hear did not stop. The doors are home-made panel doors of black walnut. Joists were sawed with a rip saw.

There are now two corrded bedsteads in the house which were brought from North Carolina. These are masterpieces of that one-time art.

Between 1830 and 1850 the state appropriated \$2,694,239 for the benefit of turnpike companies and a well planned system of macadam roads was built, principally in Central Kentucky where the wealth centered.\* Toll gates were profitable and continued so up until 1896 when most of the toll gates throughout the states were raided. The following figures disclose the inequality of the expenditure of the money appropriated

1—"The line recommended was to descend the North Fork of the Kentucky to the mouth of Millstone Creek, which it should ascend and pass over the ridge which divides it from Thornton Creek; up Thornton Creek and through a low gap which divides it from Rockhouse Fork; up Rockhouse Fork for a mile, and up one of the tributaries, which leads over a ridge, which divides it from Carr's Fork; down Carr's Fork to its mouth, and down the North Fork of the Kentucky, through Hazard, to the mouth of Lott's Creek; up Lott's Creek and over a ridge which divides it from Lost Creek; down Lost Creek to Troublesome, and down Troublesome to its mouth." (House Journal, 1836-7, Appendix, p. 127.)

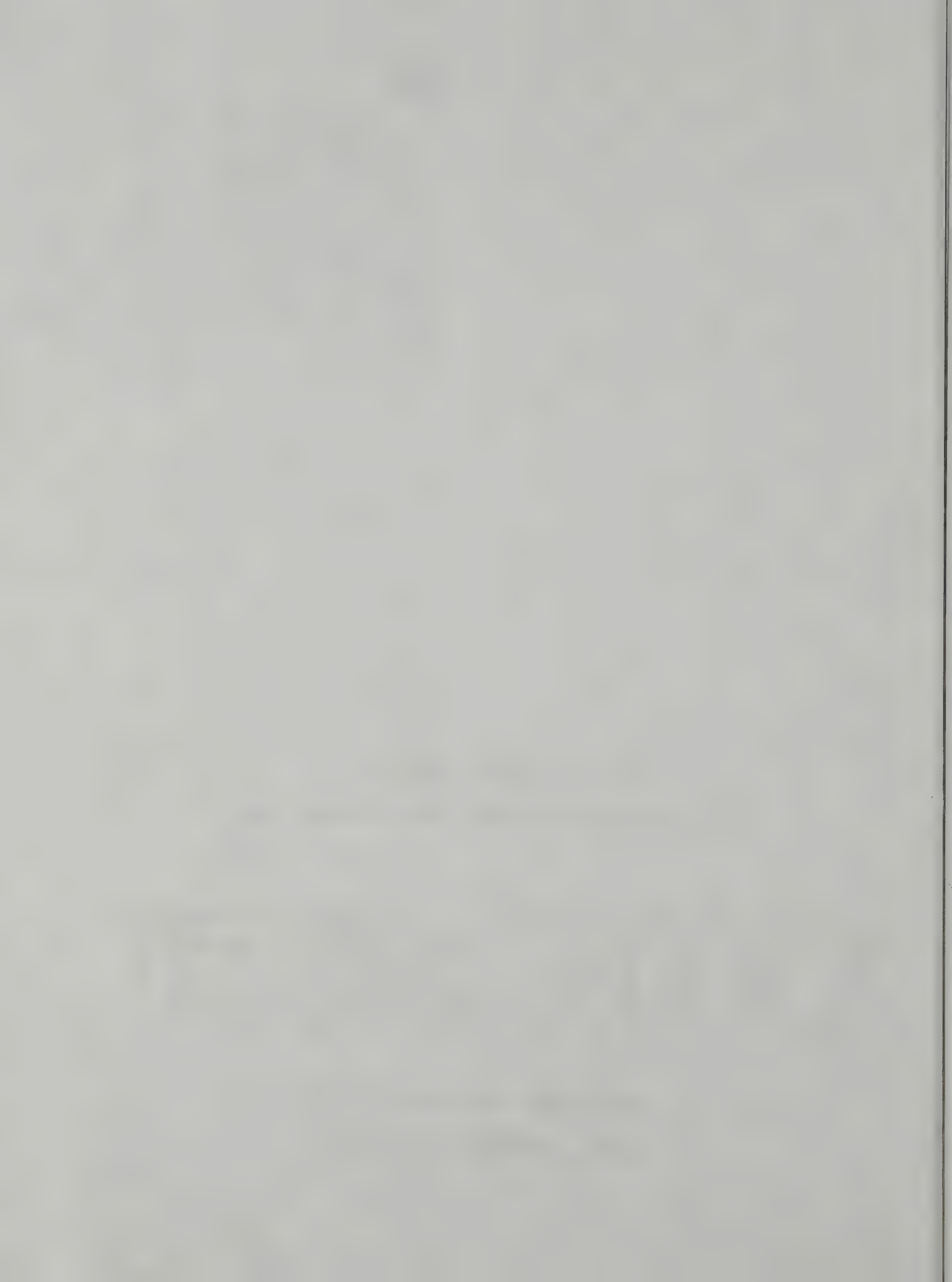
#### 2—Toll Gate Rates —

Persons .....	\$0.06 1/2
Horse, mare, or mule .....	.06 1/2
Carriage or cart with two wheels .....	.25
Carriage or wagon with four wheels .....	.50
Head of neat cattle .....	.03
Hog .....	.01

3—"Mather, in his Geological Report of January 3, 1839, describes the country along North Fork, in the vicinity of Troublesome: "The country is but thinly settled, as there is little land adapted to tillage, and is considered impassible for wagons. Bridle-paths are the only roads, and there is no means of transporting any of the produce of the country to a market except by flat-boats at high water, or on pack-horses." From the mouth of Frozen Creek northward to Hazel Green, afterward the line of an important tributary, the country, according to the report, was likewise "almost entirely in a state of nature, and impassable except on foot or on horseback."

\*—"The first "State Route" in Kentucky was opened in 1803 on this road, from Lexington via Winchester and Mt. Sterling to Olympian Springs in Bath County. (Collins, Vol. I, p. 514.) The Kentucky Gazette, August 23, 1803, advertises the line. J. Kennedy respectfully informed the public that he had commenced running his "Stage Coach" on the line between Lexington and the Olympian Springs at Mud-lick, and proposed starting regularly from Lexington every thursday morning at four o'clock precisely, and to arrive at the Springs the same day. The rate to the Springs was twenty-one shillings, to Mt. Sterling fifteen, and to Winchester nine. Each passenger was allowed ten pounds baggage and for excess was charged three cents per pound for the whole distance, two cents from Winchester, and one cent from Mt. Sterling. The owner also offered to convey packets of papers, etc., at reasonable rates. He anticipated meeting encouragement in the undertaking, as he had expended upward of \$2,000 in starting the enterprise and would continue to add every convenience for the accommodation of passengers. The stage was also to be run between Lexington and Frankfort during the next session of the Assembly. (Vol. I, page 135, Kentucky Mountains, by Verhoeff.)

(Continued to Page 73)





### HALL OF FAME

Distinguished Kentuckians selected by High School student of Kentucky in 1942.

Abraham Lincoln  
Jefferson Davis  
George Rogers Clark  
Daniel Boone  
Dr. Ephriam McDowell  
Gov. Isaac Shelby  
Henry Clay  
John Fitch  
Simon Kenton  
Zachary Taylor

### JORDAN MOTOR COMPANY

JENKINS, KENTUCKY

#### GOLDEN JUBILEE

The first motor vehicle was invented in 1770 by a Frenchman named Cugnot. It was steam propelled and was capable of attaining the magnificent speed of 2 1/4 miles per hour. But it was only in the 1890's, when electricity and gasoline came into use as motive power, that the present day automobile was conceived. The year 1896 is set as the birth year of the present industry, and the country is celebrating this year as the fiftieth anniversary.

Prominent among Letcher County dealers participating in this celebration is the Jordan Motor Company, of Jenkins. Founded in 1935 by W. R. Jordan, it handles Dodge, Plymouth, Packard and Crosley automobiles, with a full line of accessories, parts and the usual garage services. Mr. Jordan came from Louisa, Kentucky, and from 1922 until 1935 was manager of the Recreational Department of the Consolidation Coal Company of Jenkins.

He married Miss Allie Wells, of Paintsville, who assists him in the business.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Jordan will tell you that the Packard of today is a far cry from the old 1899 Model A. So, too, are the powerful new Chrysler Products, with their sleek lines and comfortable riding features.

### NEON FRUIT MARKET

Box 135 — Neon, Ky.

FRUITS—VEGETABLES

New Line of DRY GOODS

Frank Abdoo, Mgr. 15 years in Neon

F. SIMON

Neon, Ky.

HAY — GRAIN — FEED

Honest Weight

Reliable Service

Phone 2881

Box 325



Another type of coal hoist for lifting coal from the tracks into coal cars. This truck dumps itself. Other trucks are lifted by the hoist over the front of the track. 1940.

### KINGDOM COME

It is said that in the beginning of the settlement of Letcher County a man by the name of King was the first to settle on Kingdom Come Creek. Subsequently other families came and on one occasion when the first settlers were discussing what to name the creek, one of the group related that when he moved into the community, King-done-come to it. Another said, "There you have it. Kingdom Come." So that is how the creek got its name.

Legend has it that one of the earlier settlers of this community undertook to eat some meat of every bird, fowl, animal or creature he could find. He afterwards claimed that a buzzard was the worst and the toughest meat he ever ate; that a nice fat young coon was the best meat; and that he ate some of a rattle snake which came the nearest of all to killing him.

Two ladies who had not seen each other for years, met on the street. One exclaimed, "Oh, June! So much has happened to me since I saw you. I have had my teeth taken out and an electric stove and refrigerator put in."

### CUMBERLAND HOTEL

Neon, Ky.

Good, Clean Rooms for  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

### NEHI BEVERAGE COMPANY

J. B. McAuley, Franchised Bottler

ROYAL CROWN COLA

Neon, Ky.





(Continued from Page 71)

by the state for the benefit of turnpike roads. Only a small percentage of the sum was spent on mountain roads.

#### Expenditures on various roads—

Owingsville and Big Sandy .....	\$168,783.83
Mt. Sterling to Virginia line .....	23,243.40
Pikeville and Sounding Gap .....	6,324.00
Irvine to mouth of Troublesome .....	448.50
Mouth of Troublesome to Sounding Gap .....	731.50
Wilderness and Cumberland Gap .....	6,655.75

#### Some Court Orders

In looking over the County Court order books of Letcher County one finds many odd and amusing court orders.<sup>1</sup> There are many orders connected with the public road, allowing pay for work done or to be done upon the road. Others appointing road surveyors, commissioners or overseers. Upon these persons so appointed was imposed a duty to either build, improve, or keep in repair a certain section of the county road. In the earlier days these road commissioners were assigned certain male citizens to work said road, usually those living near or in the neighborhood of same. This overseer or commissioner, usually in the spring or early summer of each year, would warn or notify his road-hands to work the road, usually two days per week for three consecutive weeks. In the earlier days the road-hands brought with them such tools as they had to use in working the road, these consisting of mattocks, picks, garden hoes, rakes, scythe, shovels and sledges. Usually someone brought a team or yoke of oxen to use in ploughing the road or hauling stone to fill in mud holes.

As time went on the Fiscal Court purchased many of the road tools, including a road plow, picks, shovels and scraper which were turned over to the road overseer to be used on his section of the road. Sign or finger boards often were put up by various persons at cross roads or road intersections and paid for by the county.<sup>2</sup>

As road improvement progressed, use of the farm and road wagon increased, and the buggy and two horse carriage were introduced. First the steel tired buggy and later the rubber tire. During this period the blacksmith shop was common throughout the county. There were those who could repair wagons and carriages, and if necessary make a wagon, or fill a wagon wheel with spokes. Every community had in it some-

1—March Term 1866. "Ordered by the Court that Isaac Williams be appointed Surveyor of the road from Stephen Caudill house up the River through Whitesburg to the house of Spencer Adams, the Road having just been opened by Spencer Adams and hands, having been cut fifteen feet and dug twelve feet, and that he, together with the hands living in Whitesburg keep the same in good condition."

Aug. Term 1868. "Ordered that Cynthia Hogg be allowed 25 cents per day for the services of a yoke of Oxen Labouring on a Road under the superintendence of James Hogg."

Dec. Term 1868. "Ordered that John N. Craft be allowed Ten Dollars in Land Warrants for the making of a bridge near Joel Wrights on the Road across a certain hollow No. 123."

Feb. Term 1869. "Ordered that William Smith be allowed a two hundred acre Land Warrant for Labor to be done on a Road in taking out certain Rock out of Said Road."

Feb. Term. 1875. "Ordered by the Court that John Wright be appointed Superintendent of the road from above John Halls to the Pike County line on the review made by Noah Reynolds and John Wright and, etc.—. Nathaniel Collins, J.L.C.C."

Nov. Term, 1875. "Ordered that P. H. Tigner be allowed for putting up three finger Boards at the forks of Troublesome \$1.00."

2—The act of December 3, 1822, exempted persons over fifty years of age. The act of 1894 fixed the age limit from eighteen to fifty years, and exempted "licensed ministers" and citizens of incorporated towns and cities. The law demands an annual service of from two to six days, of eight hours each, except in case of an "emergency," when the overseers may require more. (Section 22.)

The law of 1797 provided for the impressment of "necessary carriages, draught horses or oxen, with their gear and driver, belonging to any person who, or their servants or slaves," were appointed to work on the road. (page 183 of Kentucky Mountains 1750-1911 Vol. 1 by Verhooff)



Frazer Building. Oldest Brick building in Whitesburg. The brick were burnt near the site of the building.

one who could make the old fashioned "Bull-Tongue" plow, ox yokes and sleighs. These modes of transportation required bridges across many of the streams, all of which required further expenses.

Soon these methods of transportation which brought about such changes in the economy in the county became obsolete with the introduction of the automobile.

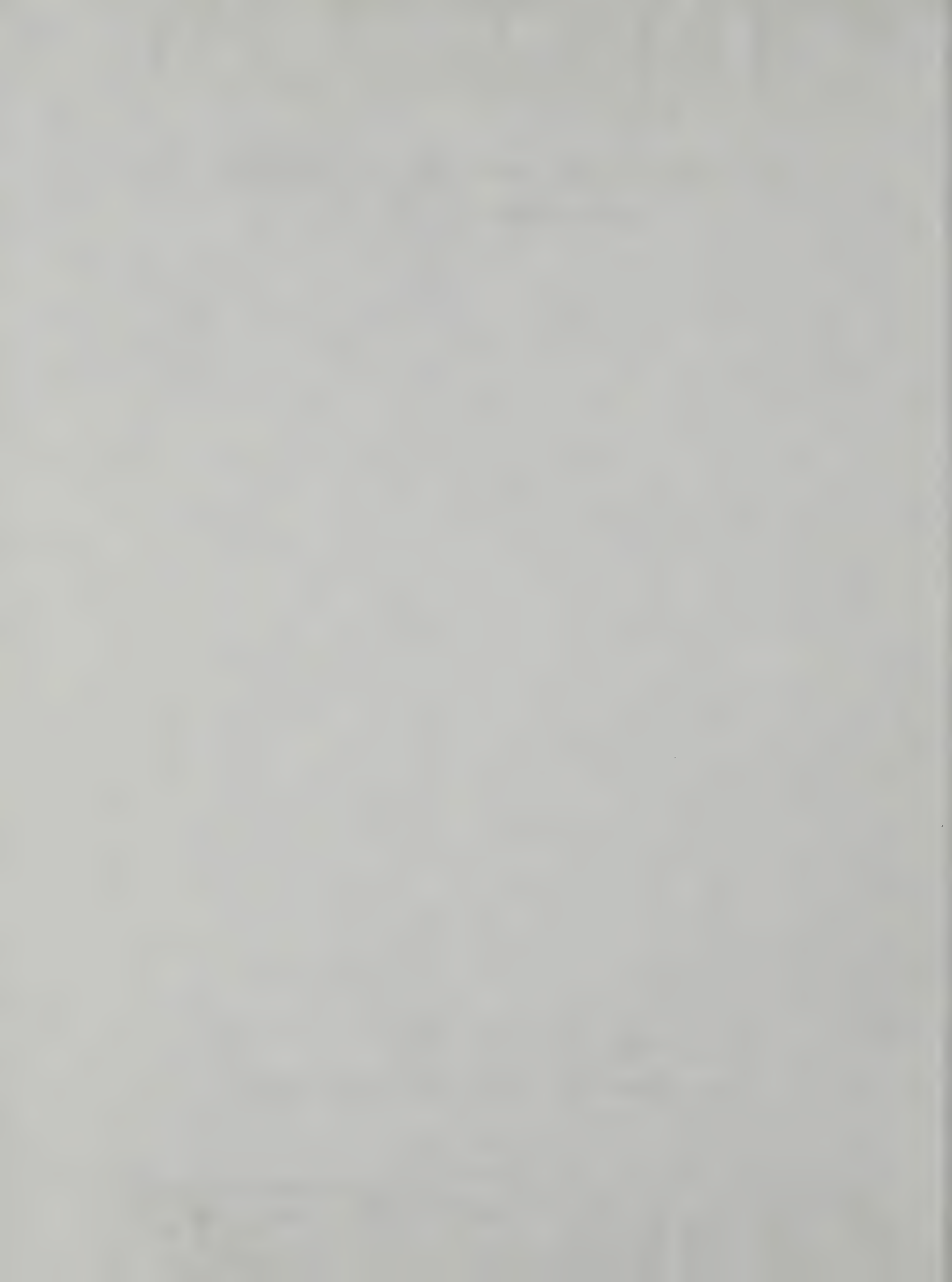
#### Modern Improved Roads

The first automobile brought into the county by a Letcher Countian was a Ford which was owned by Hon. David Hays, Attorney, of Whitesburg, in 1911, and the first truck was a Packard brought into the county in 1911 by Consolidation Coal Company. The wagon, buggy and two horse carriages and blacksmith shops gradually passed on as the motor vehicle, garage and hard surfaced roads were ushered in. Prior to 1910 Kentucky had a good Highway Department and beginning around 1920 a net-work of roads connecting all the county seats in the state was begun. Many bills were introduced and became a law in 1924 setting out many such road projects. Today practically every county seat in the state is connected with all the adjoining county seats by means of this net-work. Letcher County is now favored with a splendid road net-work, and this is being extended and improved each year. Through the courtesy of Mr. Vear Mann, Director of Public Information, Department of Highways of Kentucky, the writer is in position to furnish authentic information in regard to the improved roads in Letcher County. Here is a brief statement, from Mr. Mann touching upon the roads.<sup>1</sup>

The following figures are of interest in throwing some light on the cost of construction and improving of the roads in Letcher County. U. S. 23 from its intersection with U. S. 119 in Jenkins to the Virginia Line which work was begun in 1920 and completed in 1925 follows: Grade and Draining and hardsurfacing 2.902 Mi. cost estimate \$210,810.17.

Concrete road CL of Jenkins at last RR X-ing to near road to Seco, approximately 2.2 mi. NE of Haymond, 1927-'28. Type R.C. Paving 5.991 mi. cost \$185,256.28. Mayking-Haymond, 1925-'26 distance 7.889 mi., cost \$188,879.94. Ermine P. O. 1919-21 Grade and Drain, .870 Mi. cost \$16,283.42. This Section at Ermine was done by the county.

(Continued to Following Page)





With this excellent net-work of splendid highways, both state and Federal, those living outside the confines of Letcher County, have a golden opportunity to enjoy the many beautiful sights and breath-taking scenery from the mountain tops. One cannot find a more fascinating picture than that which opens at the first early morning, streaks of the gray dawn as it clears away the darkness and opens to full view the sea of fog hanging just under the mountain tops in the valleys and kissed away by the glowing ray of the morning sun.

1—The Division of Planning, Kentucky Department of Highways, has taken from its files a complete record of road work in Letcher county for your information.

This record starts with the earliest date available in this department and continues through 1940, in some instances through 1943.

There are 36 bridges on the state-maintained system; our office does not attempt to maintain a list of the additional bridges on county roads, but it is estimated that the total number, including state-maintained, would be 62 which might be classed as bridges (span of 20 ft. or more).

In Letcher, on county roads, you have 46.5 miles of gravel or stone surfaced roads; 19.6 miles graded and drained; 167.8 miles unimproved. These figures are dated August 15, 1946 and considerable change has taken place during the past year. Would suggest that you contact your County Court Judge in this connection.

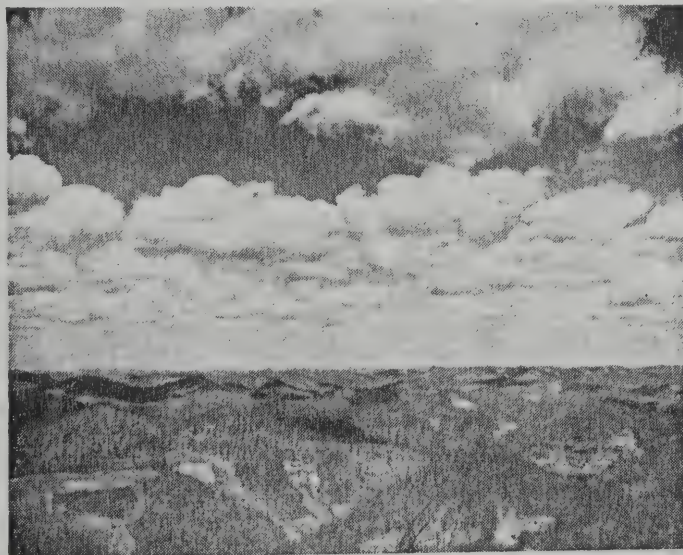
In Letcher, on state roads, you have 36.2 miles of gravel or stone; 48.6 miles of bituminous; 6.3 miles of concrete and 5 miles of composite, a total of 96.1 miles—all improved.

We regret that we cannot give you information back of the dates indicated. The first Biennial Report of the Department of Public Roads, Commonwealth of Kentucky, dated July 1, 1912 to November 1, 1913 has this to say about Letcher: Assessed valuation \$3,323,216; road tax, per 100 .15c; total expenditures on roads and bridge, 1912 \$6,000; total road mileage, 330 (you will note that it is exactly the same today); number of crushed stone and gravel roads, 2.

The report indicates that the Department made, at the request of the county, 4 bridge surveys on September 5, 1913; that all bridges in the county were inspected on February 12, 1913.

Plans were furnished the county by the Department for a 100 ft. span, pinconnected truss over N. Fork of the Kentucky River. This bridge was estimated to cost \$2,224.00. Plans were also furnished for a 30 ft. span beam-type bridge over Bottom Fork. Cost \$533.00. I. N. Lewis, Whitesburg, is listed as the county road engineer in this report. (—Vear Mann, Director Division of Public Information, Dept. of Highways.)

(Concluded)



Panoramic view from atop Pine Mountain. Letcher County has many such inviting scenes.

### MOUNTAIN DREAMS

Hark! Pine Mountain is calling,  
The call of the Cumberland.  
Hark! To the tree tops moaning,  
Their strange and weird chant.  
Hark! To the birds sweet singing  
in the sun-kissed boughs above.  
Hark! To the chipmunk's innings,  
And the lonesome call of the dove.

They tell a strange weird story,  
Of the trail of the Lonesome Pine;  
Of the Killing Rock, the Raven Rock,  
And the High Rock most sublime.  
They tell of strife and passion,  
Since the days of Daniel Boone,  
Of fueds without compassion,  
Of "stilling" by the shine of the moon.

Behold the beauties of nature,  
As far as your eyes can see,  
From the brakes of Big Sandy to Cumberland Gap  
And down into Tennessee.  
A chain of emerald mountains,  
Heaved up by a titantic hand,  
In wildest of confusion,  
A barrier through the land.

There, the sunny slopes of Virginia,  
Here, the dark and bloody ground  
Of gallant old Kentucky  
Below the Gap of Pound.  
Here, Letcher, Knott, Bell, Harlan,  
There, Dickinson, Wise and Lee—  
All famed for coal and iron,  
And great hospitality.

As long as mountains greet you,  
Now, as in days gone by,  
Mountains will have their virtue,  
Mountains will have their "rye,"  
I want to dwell forever,  
In the realm so bright and fine,  
And listen to the secrets,  
Of the trail of the Lonesome Pine.  
S. A. Moray, Letcher County, Ky.

### "WILD CAT STORY"

Many years ago, Jonah Ison, killed a deer and hung it up in the fork of a small tree, and went on his way to attend to certain business intending to get it on his way back home. When he returned it was gone, but he could see that something had dragged it down the mountain side. He tracked it down to a bench in the mountain side, and found it just above a big log, with a bunch of large wild cats around it. He had six rifle bullets and one half of a rifle bullet. The wild cats refused to leave the deer but some continued to eat and pull at it, while others began to move around keeping their eyes on the hunter.

At this point he fired his rifle and killed a large wild cat standing upon the log. He reloaded his rifle (muzzle loader), and fired and killed another. He repeated this process until he had killed six wild cats. To this horror another, which looked to him to be larger and more vicious than any of the rest came from below the log, jumping upon it and leveled its eyes straight at Mr. Ison, and with a vicious snarl displayed two great tusks.

The hunter wished for another bullet, yet he had only a half bullet which he hurriedly pushed down the barrel of his rifle and with deadly aim fired straight into the chest of the vicious animal striking it between the forelegs near the base of its throat. The large wild cat gave a horrible scream, leaped high toward the hunter and fell to the ground dead. The hunter did not fall but it is not proper for the writer to state here what he did.





## KENTUCKY GAIAT

Martin Van Buren Bates was born in 1837 on what is now known as the Henry Potter farm, located at the mouth of Boone Creek, present location of Kona. The old log cabin in which Bates was born is no longer standing, but many of the older people of Letcher county can remember it. Many can recall having seen "Captain" Bates, as he was popularly known.

Mother Wright, of Neon, widow of the late Samuel J. Wright and a sister to Noah Reynolds of Knott County, knew "Captain" Bates well. She says that at the age of 13 he was no larger than the average mountain boy, but that by the time he had reached 18 he weighed three hundred pounds.

Special doors had to be cut in the walls for him and he required special beds and other furniture suitable to his needs. Captain Bates was 7 feet 11 inches tall, weighing approximately 450 pounds. Each shoe, it is said, would hold half a bushel of shelled corn, and his hat had a capacity of one peck.

At the time of his first wedding to Anna Swan, of Nova Scotia, Queen Victoria of England gave him a watch for a wedding present. It was valued at \$1,000, and was the approximate size of a present day saucer. It struck the hours of the day like a clock, and was no larger on Bates than an ordinary watch on the average man.

It was only natural that his size should attract attention and wonder wherever he went. This led to a contract with the Robinson Shows to travel all over the country. With him went his wife, Anna Swan Bates, also of huge stature. It has been said that she was eight feet tall. One child born to this couple died while very young.

In 1892, shortly after the first train rolled into Big Stone Gap, Virginia, according to Mother Wright, Captain Bates made an appearance there with the Robinson Show. That was one of his few professional appearances in his native hills.

He sold his holdings at the mouth of Boone Creek to Henry Potter and, after finishing with show business, settled in Seville, Ohio, where he died in 1919 at the age of 82.

Contrary to the usual rule that all abnormally large persons are lacking in intelligence, Captain Bates was a man of rare wit and was gifted with a keen mind. He was large but well proportioned and normal intellect. People who knew him well held him in high regard.

Here, then, was the biggest man ever to come out of the hills of Letcher County.

In 1946 there were listed for taxation in Letcher County fifteen railroad mines and 150 truck mines.

STATE FLOWER—Golden Rod.

STATE BIRD—Cardinal.

Housewife: If you're begging, you might at least take your hands out of your pockets, and take off your hat.

Beggar: Well, the truth is, lady, I'm begging a pair of suspenders.

There were just as many careless drivers in the old days, but fewer accidents. Horses had some sense.

—Greenville (Ohio) Advocate



Many picnic parties spend a most enjoyable and restful day on top of Pine Mountain.

## MANIES STUDIO — Neon, Ky.

Mr. John E. Manies came to Letcher County from Tennessee in 1916, the child of John Manies, Sr. and located at Haymond, where his father worked in the Coal Mines. While growing up he showed much interest in the photographic business and for the past twelve years he has been engaged in photography, maintaining his own studio at Neon, Ky.

He produces excellent photographs and is always ready to go outside his studio for outside pictures. He will take a beautiful picture of your home, place of business, recreation grounds, or group pictures of school children, athletic games and gatherings, family reunions, political gatherings, or wedding ceremonies, or in fact any occasion you desire. When you desire the services of the very best photographer in Letcher County always call Manies Studio at Neon. He has the latest equipment and can serve you for any occasion.

## CHILI BOWL

During the summer of 1946, Mr. Manies and his help were too busy in the studio to go outside for their meals and to help save time, opened a small eating place known as the Chili Bowl, where one could get a steaming hot bowl of Chili, and coffee, sandwiches and hot dogs and some soft drinks. This little place intended primarily to save time for himself and employees in the studio has grown by leaps and bounds and has been greatly enlarged so that now he has installed the very latest and most modern equipment in the county for preparing delicious meals speedily. One can secure a regular, well balanced meal at the Chili Bowl twenty-four hours daily now. His doors are never locked. Roast Beef, Roast Pork and Chicken dinners every day. Most any kind of short orders prepared quickly. Ladies and Gentlemen invited.

In addition one will find a complete line of magazines and newspapers, and a copy of the Letcher County History. When in Neon or this end of the County be sure to visit the Chili Bowl for a steaming hot bowl of Chili, or a delicious chicken dinner.





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N. MANCHESTER,  
INDIANA



